

03-03-2018 Louisville KY – Rodney S Smith – LEO – Flood Auto Accident

Police Officer Rodney Scott Smith

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/23606-police-officer-rodney-scott-smith>



Hickman Police Department, Kentucky

End of Watch Friday, March 2, 2018

RODNEY SCOTT SMITH

Police Officer Rodney Smith drowned when his patrol car was washed into a flooded field off of Bernal Avenue.

The area had become flooded as a result of the overflowing Bayou de Chien. He was checking the area when he went missing at approximately 9:15 pm.

Multiple agencies responded to the area and began a massive search. His body and patrol were located separately in a flooded field off of Bernal Avenue the following morning.

Officer Smith is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and mother.

Smith had been a member of Hickman's police department for nearly five months and previously worked as an officer in Mayfield, Kentucky, for several years.

BIO

- **Age** 45
- **Tour** 3 years, 5 months
- **Badge** 511

INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Drowned



KSP Officer Found Dead In Flooded Field

<https://fox17.com/news/local/ksp-officer-found-dead-in-flooded-field>

March 3rd 2018 by Anthony Glover

HICKMAN, Ky. -- A missing Kentucky State Police officer has been found dead. Officer Rodney S. Smith, 45, of Boaz, Ky., was located in the flooded field directly in Hickman City at around 5 a.m. on Saturday, according to KSP. He was pronounced dead on scene by the Fulton County coroner. His police cruiser was also located.

Smith was reported missing Friday night. Search and Rescue teams and various emergency agencies from Kentucky and Tennessee were deployed in the search. An autopsy is planned at the State Medical Examiner's Office later today.

Kentucky Officer Caught In Floodwaters Found Dead

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/kentucky-police-officer-found-dead-after-overnight-search/>

March 3, 2018 At 6:39 Am Updated March 3, 2018 By BRUCE SCHREINER *The Associated Press*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A small-town Kentucky police officer swept away by floodwaters was found dead Saturday after an overnight search, authorities said.

Hickman police Officer Rodney S. Smith disappeared Friday night while on duty and his body was found the next morning in a flooded field, Kentucky State Police Detective Jody Cash said.



**Kentucky State Police Officer
Rodney Smith
(Photo courtesy True Blue Warriors).**

Before his disappearance, Smith contacted a dispatcher asking for help after his vehicle was swept away by floodwaters from a nearby creek, Hickman city manager James Gray said.

"It's unexpected and devastating," Gray said.

Smith, 45, of Boaz, Kentucky, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Fulton County coroner, Cash said. The investigation was ongoing and an autopsy was planned Saturday, he said.

Search and rescue teams from Kentucky and Tennessee joined in the overnight search.

Hickman, a town of about 2,400 people along the Mississippi River, is in the far southwest corner of Kentucky. The town is about 270 miles (435 kilometers) southwest of Louisville.

The first word that Smith had encountered high water came about 9:15 p.m. CST Friday when he told a dispatcher that his cruiser had run off the road at the edge of town and asked for a tow truck, Gray said. The situation escalated quickly and he radioed back for help, saying his cruiser had been caught in a swift current, Gray said. The area has received heavy rain in recent days.

Smith got out of the cruiser when it began to sink, and authorities lost contact with him, Gray said. Dozens of searchers went out looking for him.

His body was found about 5 a.m Saturday, Cash said. His cruiser also was found.

Smith had been a member of Hickman's police department for nearly five months, Gray said. The department has a half-dozen officers, including the chief, he said. Smith previously worked as an officer in Mayfield, Kentucky, for several years, Gray said.

Ky. Officer Caught In Floodwaters Found Dead

<https://www.policeone.com/Officer-Safety/articles/471847006-Ky-officer-caught-in-floodwaters-found-dead/>

Mar 4, 2018 By Bruce Schreiner Associated Press

Officer Rodney S. Smith disappeared Friday night while on duty, and his body was found the next morning in a flooded field

Duty Death: Rodney Smith -
[Hickman, Kentucky]
End of Service: 03/03/2018

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This is the flooded field in Hickman, KY where 45yo Police Officer Rodney Smith was found this morning. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

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[View image on Twitter](#)



[Illinois News Lady@bjacobkfvs](#)

Hero Down: Hickman Police Officer Rodney Smith Drowns On Duty

https://www.themaven.net/bluelivesmatter/fallen-heroes/hero-down-hickman-police-officer-rodney-smith-drowns-on-duty--SPHgN_aVkiuYENhDdY1rA?full=1

03-05-2018 by HollyMatkin



The body of a Hickman police officer was found early Saturday morning. Hickman, KY – Hickman Police Department (HPD) Officer Rodney Smith died in the line of duty on Saturday morning as he patrolled a heavily flooded roadway.

Searchers located his body in a flooded field, following a massive overnight search, investigators said.

Officer Smith, 45, was on duty on Friday night when he contacted a dispatcher at 9:15 p.m. to report that he needed a tow truck for his patrol vehicle, which was in a ditch off the roadway, Hickman City Manager James Gray told [The Seattle Times](#).

A short while later, he contacts the dispatcher again, and said that his patrol car had been swept away by in the floodwaters of a creek. He said that he exited the vehicle when it began to sink.

A witness reported having seen the officer climbing onto the roof of his vehicle before he and the SUV were swept away in the current, [KFVS](#) reported.

Emergency personnel from over 20 agencies searched for the officer overnight, and ultimately located both him and his vehicle at approximately 5 a.m. on Saturday.

Officer Smith was pronounced dead at the scene by the Fulton County coroner, Kentucky State Police Detective Jody Cash told The Seattle Times.

A subsequent preliminary autopsy indicated that he died from drowning, [WPSD](#) reported.

"As many of you are aware the City and Police Department of Hickman suffered a tragic loss of one of our finest Rodney Smith last night," the [City of Hickman](#) posted to Facebook on Saturday. "Rodney was not only an exceptional officer. He was also a dedicated and loving father and husband, a new edition to our community with a desire to be involved beyond just his job. He was intelligent, funny, and supportive of his friends and co workers. He will be sorely missed."

Officer Smith had been with the Hickman Police Department (HPD) for nearly five months, Gray told The Seattle Times. He previously worked for the Mayfield Police Department (MPD) for several years.

"He was invested in being a part of the community," Gray told WPSD. "A family man. He was very proud of his children, always talking about them...Everybody in the community liked him. I know there are a lot of people that are hurting and a lot of people that are trying to make sense of it."

Officer Smith, a married father of six, is also survived by three grandchildren and his mother, according to his [obituary](#).

He will be laid to rest on Tuesday, KFVS reported.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Hickman Police Department Officer Rodney Smith, both blood and blue. Godspeed, we will take the watch from here.

Thank you for your service.

Coroner Confirms Ky. Officer Drowned; Funeral Services Announced

<http://www.lex18.com/story/37645724/funeral-services-announced-for-officer-killed-in-flooding>
Mar 05, 2018

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A small-town Kentucky police officer swept away by floodwaters was found dead Saturday from drowning after an overnight search, authorities said.

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Before his disappearance, Smith contacted a dispatcher asking for help after his vehicle was swept away by floodwaters from a nearby creek, Hickman city manager James Gray said.

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On Monday, the Mayfield Messenger reported that Fulton County Coroner Matt Moss determined that Smith had died from drowning.



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Smith previously worked as an officer in Mayfield, Ky., for several years, Gray said.

Funeral services for Officer Smith will be held March 6 at 11 a.m. at the First Assembly of God Church in Mayfield. Burial service will follow at the Mt. Olive Methodist Church Cemetery. Friends may call after 5 p.m. March 5 at the First Assembly of God Church.

Funeral procession held for Hickman, KY officer

<https://www.kfvs12.com/story/37638026/funeral-procession-held-for-hickman-ky-officer/>
Mar. 3, 2018 at 10:22 AM CST|Updated: Mar. 6, 2018 By [Justin Fischer](#)

HICKMAN, KY (KFVS) - A funeral procession for a Hickman, Kentucky police officer traveled through Graves County on Tuesday afternoon, March 6.

Funeral services for Officer Rodney Smith were on Tuesday, Mar. 6 at 11 a.m. at the First Assembly of God Church in Mayfield. Burial service followed at the Mt. Olive Methodist Church Cemetery.

The body of a missing police officer in western Kentucky was found in a flooded field off of Bernal Ave. in Hickman, Ky. at 5 a.m. on Saturday, March 3.

According to Kentucky State Police, Officer Rodney S. Smith, 45, of Boaz, Ky., was pronounced dead at the scene by the Fulton County Coroner.

The police vehicle Officer Smith was driving was also found.

Many in Hickman remained in shock after the loss of one of their own.

"I thought initially that maybe there was a miscommunication," said James Gray, Hickman City Manager. "This couldn't be happening and of course when I arrived on scene, it was."

More than 20 agencies, Search and Rescue teams and various emergency agencies from Kentucky and Tennessee help in the search effort.

Homeowners in the area said the roads can get very dangerous there during high waters.



**Officer Rodney Smith
(Source: City of Hickman,
Kentucky/Facebook)**



**This is the flooded field in Hickman,
KY where Rodney Smith's body was
found. (Source: Brittany Jacob, KFVS)**

"Last weekend, I don't think the water was over the road," said Glenn Jones, a homeowner near the area. "It was up to the road, but you could still drive down and come back. There is a ditch beside the highway and it's probably fifteen-feet deep right there where the accident happened."



**Funeral procession for the fallen officer
(Source: Mike Mohundro, KFVS)**

Officer Smith leaves behind a wife and kids and was part of the Mayfield, Ky. Police Department five months prior to moving to Hickman, Ky.

According to Hickman Police Department, at approximately 9:15 p.m. Friday evening, Officer Smith accidentally drove his departmental SUV into flood waters. A witness saw Smith climb onto the roof of his vehicle before he and the SUV were swept away by the current.

According to KSP, they were notified at around 9:15 p.m. on Friday, March 2, that the officer was possibly missing in the flooded field

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March 6th 2018

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