

03-31-2001 Willow Creek CA – Nancy Roberts – Vol FF Whitewater Training

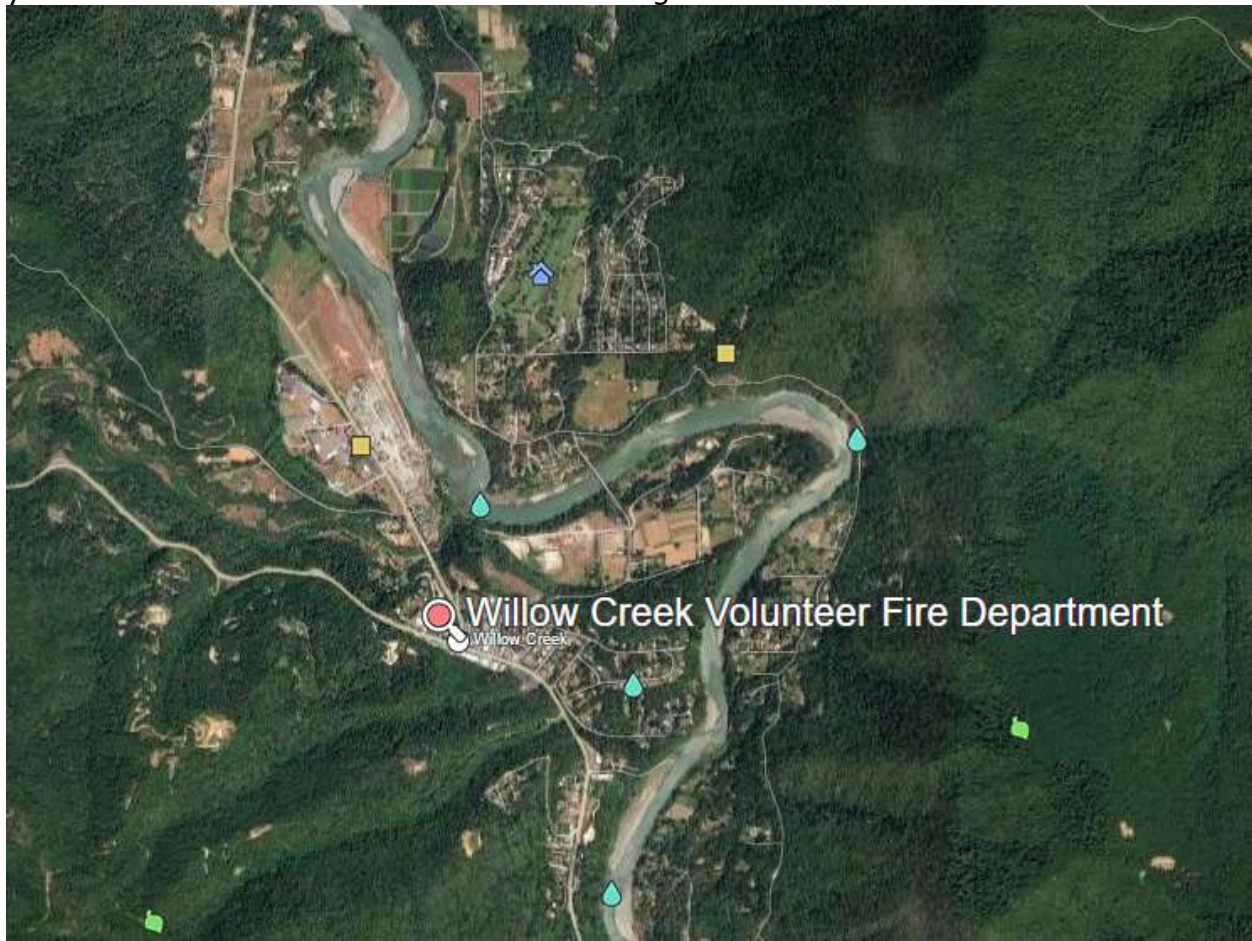
California Firefighter Dies In Whitewater Accident

http://www.firehouse.com/lodd/2001/ca_apr4.html

04-04-2001 **Firehouse.Com News**

Nancy Roberts, a volunteer firefighter with Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department in California, drowned in the Trinity River on March 31. Roberts, 38, was practicing whitewater rafting skills with another firefighter when the kayak capsized.

Roberts had served with the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department for three years. Her husband is also a volunteer firefighter.



According to Dave Walker, PIO for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, the Trinity River was running high and fast on March 31. The turbulent water pitched Roberts from her kayak. The current swept her into a "rootball," an overturned tree with the roots exposed. "It's just like a web," said Walker. The fast moving water pushed Roberts under the roots and pinned her in place.

Emergency units were unable to locate the body during the first day. One the second day, a member of the California Highway Patrol spotted Roberts in the river, still trapped under the roots. Almost 24 hours later, Roberts' body was recovered and released to the Coroner's Office.

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2001/06/line-of-duty-deaths-2001.html>

March 31. Firefighter Nancy Roberts, 38, of the Willow Creek (CA) Volunteer Fire Department, drowned while practicing whitewater skills with another firefighter on the South River.

<file:///C:/Users/owner/Downloads/ffdata03292017.pdf>

Nancy Roberts Fatality status is provisional and may change as USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify fatality incident information. Age: 38 Rank: Firefighter Classification: Volunteer Incident date: Mar 31, 2001 14:00 Date of death: Mar 31, 2001 Cause of death: Caught or Trapped Nature of death: Asphyxiation Activity type: Other Emergency duty: No Duty type: Training Fixed property use: Outdoor Property Memorial fund information: Department information Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 51 Willow Creek, CA 95573 Chief: Rob Wile

http://www.archive-org-2014.com/org/i/2014-01-18_3553122_9/International-Association-of-Women-in-Fire-amp-Emergency-Services/

- Title: International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services Descriptive info: Nancy Roberts.. Nancy Roberts, a firefighter with the Willow Creek, California, Volunteer Fire Department, drowned on March 31, 2001.. Roberts, 38, was practicing fast-water skills on the South Fork of the Trinity River with another firefighter when her kayak flipped.. According to the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, Roberts came out of the boat and was carried by the current into what is known as a "strainer" -- the submerged roots of a ... the swift current pushed Roberts into the roots and held her there.. Her body could not be located and removed until almost 24 hours later.. Roberts had served with the WCVFD for four years, and was a professional river guide.. She is survived by two sisters, a cousin, and her beloved dog, Cooper.. Memorial donations may be sent to the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department, P.. Box 51, Willow Creek, CA 95573..

Original link path: /in_memoriam.php?person=14

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<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Accident/detail/accidentid/697/>

Accident Database: Accident #697

Date:	2001-03-31
Victim:	Nancy Roberts
Victim Age:	38
River:	Trinity, South Fk.
Section:	
Location:	
Gauge:	
Water Level:	Medium
River Difficulty:	III
Accident Cause:	Pinned in Boat Against Strainer
Cause Code(s):	Pinned in Boat Against Strainer PFD Fell Off
Injury Type(s):	Does not Apply
Factors Code(s):	Other
Age:	38
Experienced/Inexperienced:	Some Experience
Private/Commercial:	Private
Boat Type:	Kayak - Other
Group Info:	
Other Victim Names:	
Detailed Description:	<p>On March 31st Nancy Roberts, 38, drowned when her sit-on top kayak washed into a strainer on the South Fork, a tributary of the Trinity River in Northern California. Slim Ray reported that she and her partner were practicing search procedures with the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department when they both hit a logjam in Class III water. Her partner</p>

	<p>fought his way through the obstacle in time to see Roberts hit the pile of wood and fall off her boat. He retrieved the kayak, but could not find her.</p> <p>Ten minutes later her PFD popped to the surface, zipped and fastened. Her partner ran out of the canyon to a call box and dialed 911. Firefighters searched the area without success. The next day, after the water level had dropped 1 feet, a helicopter spotted her body beneath the water. A bulldozer reopened an existing road to the site, and a backhoe was used to dismantle the strainer. When the last log was pulled out, Robert's body floated to the surface with her kayak paddle wrapped completely around her. CW</p>
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