

05-26-2006 Montgomery Co TN – Joe Snow – EMS Swift Water Rescue Attempt

Joe Snow

"It is with deep regret that we advise you that a rescue-paramedic with Montgomery County (TN) EMS who went overboard during a water rescue attempt this past Thursday night died this morning. Joe Snow, an eight-year veteran was a diver and trained in swift-water rescue. He and a fellow rescue-paramedic were trying to rescue one of two 15-year-old boys who were trapped in the undercurrent below Ringgold Dam. Their raft was capsized by water spilling over the dam, and both paramedics went under. Snow was under water for six to eight minutes before rescuers could free him from the powerful undercurrent. Since then, he has been in critical condition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. The bodies of the teen-age boys were found Friday".

Firehouse Forum

<http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php/sheets>

5 Die After Storms Hit Ind., Ky., Tenn.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/26/AR2006052600980_pf.html

May 27, 2006 The Associated Press

IRVINGTON, Ky. -- Severe thunderstorms that lashed through Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana left five people dead and a 4-year-old girl missing, authorities said Friday.

The girl's mother and another adult got out of their vehicle safely before a rain-swollen creek swept the car away with the child about 50 miles southwest of Louisville Thursday night, said Rick Priest, Breckinridge County emergency management director.

"We're trying to find the vehicle, and we're assuming that the 4-year-old is still in the vehicle," Priest said.

In central Kentucky, a 68-year-old woman died after being struck by lightning from the storms, officials said.

Shirley F. Cosby, of Lexington, was found early Friday on the sidewalk in front of her residence, the coroner's office said. It appeared she was placing her yard waste container by the curb when she was struck.

In southern Indiana, searchers found the bodies of Greg Kemp, 35 and his 4-year-old son, Isaac, both of Leopold, downstream from where their pickup truck was washed off the road by a rain-swollen creek, Indiana Conservation Officer Mark Farmer said.

A search Friday failed to find the boy's grandfather, Robert Edwards, 55, also of Leopold. Greg Kemp's 7-year-old son, Morgan, was able to swim away to safety Thursday, Farmer said.

In Tennessee, the bodies of two 15-year-old boys, Vincent Kruk and Phillip Siefert, were found Friday after they were swept away the night earlier while swimming in a creek just north of Clarksville, said Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services official Gary Perry.

Two emergency workers trying to rescue the teens were injured, one critically, when their boat capsized.

One of them, rescue diver Joe Snow, was under water for up to six minutes after he was caught in the undertow, Perry said.

Snow was in critical condition Friday at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. About 187,000 Duke Energy customers in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky were without electricity at one point, and service to some Cincinnati-area homes was not expected to be restored until Saturday, spokesman Steve Brash said Friday.

On Friday, the storms were moving east through New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, and hazardous weather advisories warned of severe thunderstorms bringing damaging gusts and hail.

Paramedic/Diver killed during swiftwater rescue attempt in TN

<https://forums.firehouse.com/forum/rescue-special-ops/underwater-rescue-and-recovery/67172-paramedic-diver-killed-during-swiftwater-rescue-attempt-in-tn>
05-29-2006

This is from "THE SECRET LIST.COM" ...

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Additional . . .

Water Rescue Attempt Claims Tennessee Paramedic

A Tennessee paramedic tossed overboard Thursday during a rescue attempt in a swollen creek has died.

Joe Snow, a paramedic with Montgomery County EMS, died at 4:02 a.m. Sunday at Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville.

On Thursday evening, Snow and another rescuer were thrown into the water at the base of a dam as they attempted to reach youths in distress, said Lt. Eric Reece.

"The boys went over the dam and were caught in the hydraulic. They were trying to get to them when the boat overturned," Reece said, adding that the water was fierce because of storms further up stream.

Both rescuers were wearing life jackets, helmets and wet suits. Snow's partner was able to free himself quickly, and went back under to pull him out. However, he had been underwater for five to eight minutes.

Snow was treated, and rushed to the hospital.

"He was like a fish. He loved the water. He was a swift water rescue technician and diving instructor."

A Montgomery County paramedic for the past eight years, Snow was passionate about his work. "His hobby -- EMS -- it was everything to him."

Grief counselors will be on hand as colleagues deal with his untimely death. Funeral arrangements for the father of two are pending.

Rescue on the River

<http://alumnus.tennessee.edu/2008/rescue-on-the-river/>

08 January 2008



A career in natural resources management conjures up thoughts of working in serene settings, protecting the environment, being a friend to wildlife, and teaching young and old to appreciate the outdoors. Jereme Odom (Martin '98) does all that and more as a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency officer. He enforces hunting, fishing, and boating laws, manages state-owned land, and conducts youth programs. He also developed the concept for a \$3-million state shooting complex—a facility he oversees after raising more than \$900,000 toward its completion.

"No day is typical," Odom says. "As a wildlife officer, you can head out to check hunters or boaters and end up working with injured wildlife or talking with area youth or farmers. It is a great and fulfilling job."

May 25, 2006, was even less typical than most of Odom's days. He helped save a life and then found his own life threatened, as well. He deflects attention from his heroic exploits though they attracted media attention and gratitude from the family and friends of those involved.

"I was just doing my job and trying to help," Odom says. "I have lots of other things that I want to be known for . . . not a tragedy at the muddy river."

Early that day, storms caused the Red River in Clarksville to swell. When the weather cleared, two boys went for a swim at the Old Mill on the west fork of the river. About 6 p.m., the Montgomery County Rescue Squad called TWRA for help recovering the two youths, who were presumed drowned.

Odom and his partner, Dale Grandstaff, set out by boat. When they rounded a bend, they saw a terrifying sight: an empty rescue boat sucked against the dam by the roiling water and its two former occupants—divers Joe Snow and Dustin Hass—battling relentless suction that was pulling them down.

Odom and Grandstaff got to Hass first, got him out of danger, and then went back for Snow, who was trapped in the turbulence and losing strength. But as they attempted the rescue, the treacherous currents pulled their boat into the dam, as well. The craft capsized and trapped Odom underneath. Battling the fearsome suction and with his lungs nearly bursting, he fought to get his head above water.

“When I finally made it to the surface, I was totally out of breath,” he remembers. But the river wasn’t through with him yet. The rigging, dislodged from the rescue boat by the turbulent water, wrapped itself around Odom’s neck. Luckily, Grandstaff had stayed afloat by holding on to their capsized boat and was able to get to his partner and remove the rope. Together they made it to shore.

About the same time, Snow was freed from the powerful pull of the spilling water and airlifted to a hospital, but he died several days later. Odom was transferred by ambulance to a medical facility, where he was treated and released.

“I go on many calls with boating accidents, and some involve death and injury,” Odom reflects. “But this was the first time that other rescuers and I have been involved in being rescued and losing a rescuer. It was a reality check.”

Joe Snow Memorial Bass Tournament

<https://mcgtn.org/ems/joe-snow-memorial-bass-tournament>

Paramedic Joe Snow was killed in the line of duty on May 28, 2006, attempting to rescue two young boys who had become missing while swimming in a rain swollen creek. During the rescue attempt, the boat that Joe and his partner Lt. Dustin Haas were in overturned, causing Joe to become entrapped underwater by the severe undertow, ultimately resulting in his death.

As fellow co-workers and friends, we are planning to host the 6th annual Joe Snow Memorial Bass Tournament on May 4, 2013, at Lick Creek boat ramp on Lake Barkley in Dover, Tennessee. The tournament is designed to pay respect to a fallen hero. Joe was employed with EMS for 9 years and was the leader of our Dive/Swift Water rescue teams. Not only was Joe an excellent and hard working paramedic for Montgomery County he also came to the assistance of surrounding counties as well. Joe was also a devoted and loving father to his two young sons, Michael and Matthew. Joe's love of his family and dedication to helping those in need was not only something that he was known for, but was an integral part of his character.

All proceeds from this event will go to a fund developed at F&M Bank for the benefit of Joe's two surviving young sons.

