Chicago Fire Department Diver Critically Injured, Transferred to Stroger in Water Rescue Incident in Chicago River West of Ashland Ave, Chicago


May 28 2018 9:33

Chicago police and firefighter/paramedics responded about 8:00 PM Monday May 28, 2018 to a report of a person in the water near Damen Ave and 29th St Chicago, Il. Chicago Police and Chicago Fire Department divers, firefighters, and paramedics received a report that a person fell of a boat, fell underwater, and did not re-surface.

The report of a person in the water was initially given at Ashland Avenue and the Chicago River.

A Chicago Fire Department diver was reported injured during the rescue operations at this incident. The diver was rescued from the water by about 8:55 p.m., and was transported by paramedics with a police escort to Stroger Cook County Hospital about 9:00 p.m. — arriving about 9:07 p.m. News video shows CPR was administered on the rescue boat, and upon arrival at Stroger.

Chicago police divers, and a Chicago Fire Department Helicopter and Chicago Police Helicopter also responded to this incident. Chicago Fire Department also activated an EMS Plan 1 for the water rescue incident.

Chicago Fire Department reported at 9:41 p.m. that one member of the CFD Dive Team was transported to Stroger Hospital “critically injured” and that two members of the CFD Dive Team were transported in good condition to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where they were listed in good condition.

Information about the man who fell from the boat was not initially available.

DEVELOPING ...

Chicago River rescue attempt


May 28, 2018, By Nancy Loo, Courtney Gousman, Tom Negovan,AP, Sean Lewis, Updated At 05:58pm, May 29, 2018

CHICAGO — A fire department diver looking for a man who fell off a boat into the Chicago River on Monday night was separated from his partner underwater and was killed.
The Chicago Fire Department said that it's "prayers go out to the family of Firefighter Juan Bucio." It said on Twitter that Bucio "tragically passed away answering a call of a person in the water."

The man fell off the boat around 8 p.m. Monday, police said. The man has been identified as 28-year-old Alberto Lopez.

Bucio was killed and two other divers were injured while searching for Lopez in the river, which flows through downtown Chicago.

Bucio was in the water with a dive partner when the partner lost contact with him, fire Commissioner Jose Santiago said.

"During the search, one of our divers became separated," he said. "Immediate search started with the backup divers."

Bucio was pulled from the water and later was pronounced dead at a hospital, Santiago said.

As of early Tuesday, Lopez was still missing. The search is scheduled to resume Tuesday morning.

The two other divers were hospitalized briefly.

Bucio, who was 46 years old, joined the Chicago Fire Department in 2003 and became a member of its dive team in 2007. He had two children, sons ages 7 and 9. He also had nine siblings, including a brother at the fire department and a sister at the police department, Santiago said.

"Please," Santiago said, "keep this family in your prayers."
2 injured members of CFD dive team transported to Northwestern in good condition and 1 critically injured member of the CFD dive team also transported to Stroger. No further information at this time. 9:41 PM - May 28, 2018

CHICAGO — A Chicago Fire Department rescue diver is in "very grave" condition after an incident during a rescue attempt in the Chicago River Monday night. wgntv.com
3 CFD divers injured, 1 critically, while searching for man in Chicago River
05/28/2018, Tom Schuba

LIVE TRAFFIC MAP of neighborhood to a report of a person in the water near Damen Ave and 29th St Chicago, Il ...

Three Chicago Fire Department divers were injured, one of them critically, during a search for a man who fell off a boat Monday night as it traveled on the Chicago River on the Lower West Side.

The 28-year-old fell off the boat at 8:03 p.m. in the 2600 block of South Ashland, according to Chicago Police.

One of the divers was searching for the missing man when communication was lost, according to police and Chicago Fire Media Affairs. The diver was ultimately located, pulled from the river and taken to Stroger Hospital in critical condition.

Two other divers were taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition, Fire Media Affairs said.

As of 10:15 p.m., officers with the Chicago Police Marine Unit were still searching the area for the man.

No further information was immediately made available.
Three Chicago Fire Department divers hospitalized
May 28, 2018 Armando L. Sanchez Chicago Tribune Madeline Buckley Contact Reporter

Members of the Chicago Fire and Police department work to rescue a Fire Department diver who was injured while attempting to rescue a person who fell from a boat into the Chicago River near Canalport Riverwalk Park in Chicago on May 28, 2018.

Three divers with the Chicago Fire Department have been hospitalized after an incident Monday, officials said.

One diver was rushed to Stroger Hospital in critical condition. Two others were taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition, according to the Fire Department.

Officials have not released information about what led to the hospitalization, but the Chicago Fire Department dive team was on scene before 9 p.m. on the Chicago River near Canalport Riverwalk Park in the 2900 block of South Ashland Avenue on the South Side.

Rescue crews could be seen pulling a person out of the water on a gurney as an ambulance waited nearby.

About a dozen police and fire vehicles were stationed at Stroger Hospital late Monday, and officials blocked off Ogden Avenue in front of the hospital for at least an hour.

A group of firefighters stood outside the Emergency Room while Chicago police officers lined the entrance to the hospital parking lot.

Check back for updates

Chicago Fire Department diver in ‘grave’ condition after rescue attempt
MAY 28, 2018, By Tom Negovan

CHICAGO — A Chicago Fire Department rescue diver is in "very grave" condition after an incident during a rescue attempt in the Chicago River Monday night.

CFD divers went into the waters of the Chicago River near the 2600 block of South Ashland in response to reports of a missing man who fell out of a boat and into the river.

While three divers went into the water, only two came out. A statement from CFD said that communication with the diver was temporarily lost. The rescue effort then switched to the diver, who was pulled from the river and put into an ambulance.
When the ambulance arrived at the hospital under police escort, paramedics could be seen administering CPR to the diver. Two other firefighters were transported to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for evaluation, and both are in stable condition.

This is a developing story. Check back for more updates.

3 CFD divers injured while searching for boater in Chicago River
10-29-2018 By Liz Nagy

CHICAGO (WLS) -- Three members of the Chicago Fire Department's dive team were injured while searching for a missing boater Monday.

The boater, a 28-year-old man, fell overboard in the Chicago River near Ashland Avenue at approximately 8 p.m. Officials said crews lost communication with one of the divers during the rescue operation.

Officials said two of the injured dive team members were taken to Northwestern Medical Center in in good condition. The final member was critically injured and taken to Stroger Hospital, according to officials.

The boater is still missing.

Chicago Fire Department diver dies after rescue attempt in Chicago River
MAY 28, 2018, By Tom Negovan

CHICAGO — A Chicago Fire Department rescue diver has died after an incident during a rescue attempt in the Chicago River Monday night. He's been identified as 46-year-old Juan Bucio.

CFD Marine Unit divers went into the waters of the Chicago River near the 2600 block of South Ashland in response to reports of a missing man who fell out of a boat and into the river.

While three divers went into the water, only two came out. A statement from CFD said communication with the diver was temporarily lost. The rescue effort then switched to the diver, who was pulled from the river and put into an ambulance.

When the ambulance arrived at the hospital under police escort, paramedics could be seen administering CPR to the diver. Authorities later revealed that he had succumbed to his injuries.

Two other firefighters were transported to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for evaluation, and both are in stable condition.
Chicago Fire Department diver killed, 2 others injured after rescue

A diver with the Chicago Fire Department has died and two other divers were injured following a rescue on the Chicago River Monday evening, officials said.

Juan Bucio, 46, was pronounced dead at Stroger Hospital at 10:02 p.m. after he was rushed there following a rescue attempt for a person in the water in the river in the 2600 block of South Ashland Avenue.

Two other divers were taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition, according to the Fire Department. They have been released.

The fire department received a call around 7:50 p.m. after boaters saw a person jump into the water, according to José A. Santiago, the Fire Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department.

During the search, Bucio became separated from his partner, Santiago said, and the team sent out a Mayday call.

“His partner turned around and he was missing,” he said. “It was that quick.”
Rescue crews pulled Bucio out of the water. The Chicago Police Department is still searching the water for the person that went into the water.

The rescue was near Canalport Riverwalk Park in an industrial area near the Bridgeport neighborhood on the South Side.

Crews could be seen pulling a person out of the water on a gurney as an ambulance waited nearby around 8:50 p.m.

About a dozen police and fire vehicles were stationed at Stroger Hospital late Monday, and officials blocked off Ogden Avenue in front of the hospital for at least an hour.

A group of firefighters stood outside the emergency room while Chicago police officers lined the entrance to the hospital parking lot.

Check back for updates.

**Chicago Fire Dept. diver killed searching for man in river**


May 29, 2018 U.S. Cbs/Ap

CHICAGO -- A fire department diver looking for a man who fell off a boat into the Chicago River Monday night was separated from his partner underwater and was killed, authorities said.
The Chicago Fire Department said its "prayers go out to the family of Firefighter Juan Bucio." It tweeted that Bucio "tragically passed away answering a call of a person in the water."

The man fell off the boat around 8 p.m. Monday, police said. Bucio was killed and two other divers were injured while searching for the man in the river, which flows through downtown Chicago.

Bucio was in the water with a dive partner when the partner lost contact with him, fire Commissioner Jose Santiago said.

"During the search, one of our divers became separated," he said. "Immediate search started with the backup divers."

Bucio was pulled from the water and later was pronounced dead at a hospital, Santiago said.

The man who fell off the boat hadn't been found as of early Tuesday. The two other divers were hospitalized briefly.

Bucio, 46, joined the department in 2003 and became a member of its dive team in 2007, reports CBS Chicago.

He had two children, sons ages 7 and 9. He also had nine siblings, including a brother at the fire department and a sister at the police department, Santiago said.

"Please," Santiago said, "keep this family in your prayers."

2 Investigators: A Closer Look At Fire Department Diver Juan Bucio’s Final Moments
May 30, 2018  By Dave Savini

CHICAGO (CBS) — Video of fallen Chicago Firefighter Juan Bucio’s final moments is raising new questions about the rescue operation that cost him his life Monday night in the Chicago River. Bucio disappeared under the waves of the river near 26th and Ashland while
searching for a missing boater, and was pronounced dead after he was pulled out several minutes later.

CBS 2 was on the scene as rescue crews tried to locate Bucio under the waves, and eventually pulled him from the river.

Fire Department dive teams responded to a call about a man who fell off a boat shortly before 8 p.m. Monday on the Chicago River near Canalport Riverwalk Park.

A helicopter dropped Bucio and his partner into the river to search for the boater.

The two had been in the water for some time when they began swimming to a Chicago Fire Department boat.

CBS photographer Scott Placko was videotaping the river rescue effort when Bucio and his partner ran into trouble, and crews on the boat began yelling out to them.

“Diver let’s go. Diver let’s go,” a firefighter shouted from the boat.

Bucio and his partner were face to face in the water next to the rocking boat when Bucio’s head went under the waves. His partner placed his hands on the side of the boat to keep his head above water.

Crews on the boat threw a rope to Bucio’s partner. As he was pulled out, there was still no sign of Bucio.

Fire Department radio traffic revealed crews realized Bucio had yet to surface.

“He doesn’t know what happened to Juan,” someone said over Fire Department radios.

Still unsure of what happened to Bucio, crews talked to his partner.

“They were face-to-face at the front of your boat. ... He ripped his mask off and then he went down,” someone said over Fire Department radios.

Three minutes passed before other divers entered the water to find Bucio. His body was pulled out after several minutes. An ambulance took him to Stroger Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:02 p.m.
The chief in charge of safety for the Chicago Fire Department watched CBS 2’s video from the scene on Tuesday, but did not comment, including on questions about the apparent 3-minute delay before other divers were sent into the water to look for Bucio.

Meantime, the boater firefighters were searching for, 28-year-old Alberto Lopez, has not yet been found. Friends said the father of three fell off a boat in choppy water on the river Monday night.

**Funeral Set for Fire Department Diver Juan Bucio, ‘One of the Best We Had’**


May 30, 2018

**CHICAGO (CBS) —** Funeral services have been set for Chicago firefighter Juan Bucio, who died while trying to rescue a missing boater in the Chicago River on Monday.

Bucio, 46, and his partner were searching the river Monday night after 28-year-old Alberto Lopez fell into the water when his boat hit rough water.

While swimming near a Fire Department boat, Bucio’s head went under the surface and he didn’t reappear. Crews located Bucio several minutes later, and pulled him out of the river, but he later was pronounced dead at Stroger Hospital. Lopez still had not been found, as of Wednesday afternoon.

Visitation for Bucio has been scheduled for Sunday, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the chapel at St. Rita High School, according to the Fire Department.

Bucio’s funeral will be at noon Monday at St. Rita, followed by burial at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in west suburban Stickney.

A 15-year veteran of the Fire Department, Bucio had been a diver since 2007. He leaves behind two sons, ages 9 and 10. He also has nine siblings, including a brother who works for the Fire Department and a sister who works for the Police Department.
Many of Bucio’s colleagues described him as one of the best.

“I trusted him with my life as a partner,” said fellow Fire Department diver Brian Coffman. “He was great in the water. He was one of the best we had.”

Coffman said he is numb and grieving Bucio’s death. Many others who knew him and worked alongside him are doing the same.

“Nobody expects to go to work and not come home, not even Juan. When Juan jumped out of the helicopter on that dive mission, Juan didn’t expect what happened to him,” said Fire Department Lt. Chris Meziere.

Bucio’s older son turned 10 years old on Tuesday.

“I feel for them,” said Firefighter John Metzger. “They should know that their father always talked about them and that’s what hurts the most.”

Bucio was a Chicago Police Officer before joining the fire department. He lived on the city’s Southwest Side.

“You want to know what a hero is,” said Deputy District Chief Ron Dorneker, “it’s Juan Bucio.”

It’s still not clear how Bucio died. An autopsy was performed, but the cause is pending further studies and investigation.

The Chicago Fire Department is also still investigating the circumstances of his death.

Chicago Fire Department diver who died in rescue attempt 'loved what he did'


May 30, 2018 by Madeline Buckley, Peter Nickeas, Patrick M. O’Connell and Tony Briscoe
Contact Reporter Chicago Tribune
A Chicago Fire Department diver who died during a rescue attempt on the South Branch of the Chicago River was remembered Tuesday as a devoted father who loved being a firefighter and a member of the marine and dive team.

Juan Bucio, 46, a father of two sons, became separated from his dive partner in the water Monday night while trying to rescue a man who had fallen off a boat into the river near Ashland Avenue, fire officials said.

Bucio, a 15-year veteran who served on the Fire Department’s dive team for more than a decade, disappeared briefly in the water, was located and then was lifted onto the riverbank. He was taken to Stroger Hospital, where he was pronounced dead about two hours after firefighters received the rescue call.

“He was one of the best we had,” said Ron Dorneker, chief of the Fire Department’s dive operations. “He was a great partner in the water. He was a great diver. I can’t say enough about this man. I can’t say enough about him as a father, a family man, a friend, a co-worker, a peer, as someone I swam with. He did this every day.

He did this for the citizens of Chicago. He loved what he did.”

Fire and police investigators are looking into the details of what happened to Bucio during the rescue attempt, Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said. As of Tuesday afternoon, autopsy results were pending, the Cook County medical examiner’s office said.

While Bucio’s family members waited for more information about the circumstances, they said his devotion to his job was unquestioned, according to his brother-in-law John Zabojnik.

“He passed away serving his country and city, and it’s tragic,” Zabojnik said. “Our hearts are broken.”

The search for the man in the water that prompted the emergency response was suspended Tuesday afternoon. Family and friends identified him as Alberto Lopez.

Lopez, 28, fell into the river about 7:50 p.m. Monday as he was sitting on the edge of a 16-foot johnboat, said Ed Cross, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Another boat had passed by and caused a large wake, Cross said.

Lopez was seen falling overboard as the boat bounced, said Ramiro Ponce, 24, one of two other men who were on the boat.

“He was in front of me and I saw him fall,” Ponce said in Spanish. “I didn’t even have time to grab him. We stopped the boat to go back to where he had fallen. We couldn’t see where he was. He was drowning and we couldn’t do anything.”
Two other divers were taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition, according to the Fire Department. They were treated and released.

Bucio joined the Fire Department in 2004. A longtime lifeguard, he had the dive team in his sights and became a member a few years later. He was a strong swimmer who was adept at diving, working on the boats and from a helicopter, Dorneker said. He was the father of two sons, ages 9 and 7, and could often be found at their ballgames and neighborhood gatherings, he said.

“This is not an easy day for us,” Dorneker said outside the firehouse on Columbus Drive where the marine and dive team is based. Firefighters hung purple memorial bunting above the vehicle bays to honor Bucio. The U.S. and city of Chicago flags outside the building flew at half-staff. “This is a tragic incident and a very sad day for us.”

Bucio’s fellow dive team members described him as a dedicated teammate and “consummate professional” who went the extra mile during a rescue or in duties at the firehouse.

“Juan was incredible,” Lt. Chris Meziere said. “Juan was a great diver. Whatever you needed done, Juan got it done. ... He did it for the people of Chicago. ... We’re all stunned.”
Mayor Rahm Emanuel visited the firehouse Tuesday afternoon to offer his condolences. Emanuel choked up as he spoke of Bucio and his two sons during a brief appearance in front of reporters and television crews.

“It’s important for them to know that their dad is a hero, a Chicago hero,” the mayor said. Emanuel said he planned to meet with the family Tuesday night and asked the city to “put the Bucio family in their prayers.”

With the Memorial Day weekend winding down, the Fire Department received a call after boaters saw a person in the water near Canalport Riverwalk Park in an industrial area near the Bridgeport neighborhood on the South Side, according to Chicago Fire Commissioner Jose A. Santiago.

It’s not clear what time divers entered the water. Around 8:25 p.m., Bucio became separated from his partner. “His partner turned around, and he was missing,” Santiago said. “It was that quick.”

A mayday call immediately went out.

“We have a diver down, start making phone calls, let’s get people in, 10-4?” a marine unit supervisor said over his radio.

“You sounded muffled,” an officer answered. “I can’t copy.”

“We have a possible diver down. Start calling people. Let’s get some people in.” Crews could be seen pulling a person from a boat onto a gurney as an ambulance waited on the shore nearby around 8:50 p.m. “We got the diver out; he’s going to Stroger, critical,” a battalion chief said into his radio.

Police and fire officials said the original incident with Lopez also remains under investigation.

Bucio is the 13th Chicago firefighter to die in the line of duty since 2000, according to data from the Illinois Fire Service Institute, and the first since Daniel Capuano fell through an open elevator shaft at a vacant warehouse in December 2015. Nationally, Bucio is the 39th U.S. firefighter to die on duty this year, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

From 2004 to 2016, an average of 102 firefighters died annually, which includes those who died of a heart attack or stroke during nonroutine physical activity on duty.

Water rescue- or dive team-related deaths are infrequent but not uncommon, according to national statistics. Prior to Bucio’s death, nine firefighters died during water rescues between 2000 and 2017, according to the National Fire Protection Association.
But the fatalities of firefighters involved in water-related actions, from the searches for bodies to training, are more common.

In 2016, several firefighters died in water-related activities, according to the fire administration. One firefighter died from an arterial gas embolism when he ran out of air during a recovery operation for the body of a drowning victim. Another died during water rescue training when he fell off a rescue sled being towed by a jet ski water scooter and suffered a spinal column injury. A third firefighter died when he suffered a medical emergency during a rescue operation on lakeside dock, according to the annual report compiled by the federal administration.

Nationwide, the most common cause of death among firefighters was overexertion, stress or a medical condition (42 percent) followed by crashes (25 percent) during 2016, the most recent year for which statistics are available, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The last on-duty fatality of a Chicago Fire Department diver was that of Eugene Blackmon, who died while attempting to recover the bodies of two men from the Little Calumet River in May 1998.

Bucio’s death sent shock waves across the country and beyond as it came two days after a diver died while assisting with the recovery of a crashed plane in Ontario, Canada.

Dive Rescue International, a Fort Collins, Colo.-based organization that provides training and equipment for aquatic public safety operations, held a meeting to discuss the incidents, according to Justin Fox, the CEO of the organization. He also called certified trainers in the Chicago area so they could express their condolences in what Fox says is a tightknit niche within the public safety community.

“Water search and rescue are low-frequency, high-risk events. It’s not the majority of calls firefighters are running on, like vehicle accidents and fires, but the risk is high in a low-visibility environment,” Fox said.

Bucio’s visibility may have been especially challenging given that he was diving at night. Rivers are also more difficult environments for divers compared with lakes and ponds, Fox said.

“There are all sorts of challenges to diving in a lake or quarry, but now you have the (river’s) current putting stress on the diver himself,” Fox said.

Bucio worked for the Chicago Police Department from 2000 to 2003. He joined the Fire Department in 2004 and became a member of the dive team in 2007. He lived in the Clearing neighborhood, in the 6300 block of West 63rd Street on the Southwest Side.
Outside of his sons, Bucio is survived by nine siblings, including a sister who is a member of the Chicago Police Department and a brother who is a member of the Chicago Fire Department.

There will be a Fire Department procession when Bucio’s body is transported from the medical examiner’s office to a funeral home.

**Man who fell off boat, prompting search that left diver dead, hoped to 'give his children a better future'**


May 30, 2018 by Elvia Malagon, Paige Fry Chicago Tribune

Alberto Lopez spent Memorial Day riding a small boat with his roommate and another friend along the Chicago River before a wake caused him to fall off the boat, prompting a search that led to the death of a Chicago Fire Department diver and the injury of two others.

As officials searched the South Branch of the river near Ashland Avenue on Tuesday, his fiancée in Mexico was holding out hope for him to be found safely.

“Of course, I still have hope that they find him,” Brenda Delgado Salazar said in Spanish.

Lopez, 28, fell into the river about 7:50 p.m. Monday as he was sitting on the edge of a 16-foot johnboat, said Ed Cross, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Another boat had passed and caused a large wake, Cross said.

Lopez was seen falling overboard as the boat bounced, said Ramiro Ponce, 24, one of two other men who were on the boat.

“He was in front of me and I saw him fall,” Ponce said in Spanish. “I didn’t even have time to grab him. We stopped the boat to go back to where he had fallen. We couldn’t see where he was. He was drowning and we couldn’t do anything.”

Officials began searching for Lopez, but by 8:25 p.m. one of the divers, firefighter Juan Bucio, became separated from his partner, prompting a mayday call. Bucio, 46, was pulled out of the water and taken to Stroger Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Officials called off the search for Lopez late Monday after they weren’t able to find him using divers and sonar equipment, Cross said. State conservation officers returned to the scene Tuesday morning to search the river with sonar equipment.
The Chicago Fire Department marine unit responded to the scene to help with the second day’s efforts, but the search was suspended Tuesday afternoon.

Efforts to find Lopez were expected to continue Wednesday, said Anthony Guglielmi, spokesman for the Chicago Police Department.

Lopez did not know how to swim and the men were not wearing life jackets, Ponce said. The two grew up together in Mexico and shared an apartment in West Lawn, he said. On Monday they had come home from eating seafood when another friend offered to take them on a boat ride. Ponce said Lopez looked happy as they did a loop along the Chicago River. A video taken by Ponce shows the men looking at the downtown buildings as music plays in the background.

The men were enroute to a loading dock on Western Avenue to head home when Lopez fell into the water, Ponce said.

The stretch of the river where Lopez disappeared is an industrial area on the city’s South Side. Still, various types of boats frequent the area, said Rob Hannah, the owner of Chicago Yacht Works, 2550 S. Ashland Ave. “More than one would think,” he said.

Illinois Conservation Police search the Chicago River on May 29, 2018, for a man missing after he fell into the river. A Chicago Fire Department diver, Juan J. Busio, died in the search on May 28, 2018. (Jose M. Osorio / Chicago Tribune)

Boaters typically launch from an area near Western Avenue and then travel upriver. Hannah said he checked with his customers and doesn’t believe Monday’s incident involved any of their boats.

Chicago Yacht Works stores and services boats, but owners dock the boats in harbors for the summer season, Hannah said.
Lopez had migrated less than a year ago from Aguascalientes, Mexico, to Chicago. His fiancee, Delgado Salazar, said Lopez had lost his job in Mexico and they were expecting their third child. He tried to get a visa to go to the United States but decided to enter the country illegally after his request was denied.

“He went with the hope to buy us a house and to give his children a better future,” Delgado Salazar said in Spanish.

The couple spoke on the phone daily, Delgado Salazar sending him videos of their smallest child as his teeth came in and as the toddler began sounding out words. In Chicago, Lopez was able to get work as a subcontractor putting up drywall.

Mauricio Cruz, 32, one of the owners of VD Interiors, a drywall and painting company, said Lopez had been doing work for the company for a couple of months.

Lopez had Thursday and Friday off for a long Memorial Day weekend.

“He was a pretty good guy, to be honest,” Cruz said. “He was young.”

It didn’t appear that Lopez planned to stay in the U.S. for long. Just last week he proposed by phone to Delgado Salazar, and they had already settled on having a December wedding once he returned to Mexico.

Since the accident, Delgado Salazar has been calling Lopez’s friends in Chicago to get updates on the search effort. She was trying to figure out Tuesday whether she should come to the U.S. to aid in the search.

“Please, don’t stop searching for him,” Delgado Salazar said in Spanish. “I’m asking everyone to help me pray that he is able to return to us.”

From **Steve Chikerotis**

8 hrs

Once again the Chicago Fire Department has taken the ultimate hit. Firefighter Juan Bucio lost his life while trying to save a total stranger. -- Such is the nature of this job.

I met Juan 15-years ago on his first day on the Fire Department. He left the Chicago Police Department to join the CFD and I was running training at the time. I was impressed with him from the beginning. He was tough, smart, had a big heart, and was happy to be there. It was my last class at the academy so after his class graduated we both went out into the field. It
was always great to cross paths on the job or in the neighborhood. He never failed to make me smile.

When these tragedies strike it’s always hard to understand why? Why him? Why now? Over the years our CFD chaplains were always there for us in these darkest times. Their words always seemed to help the healing process. Below is an example... A few words from one of the greatest men I know -- one of our chaplains Rabbi Moshe Wolf.

As this goes to print, our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department mourn the loss of member, FF Juan Bucio, a member of Air and Sea Rescue, who lost his life in the line of duty during a water rescue. FF Juan Bucio, was a true gentleman and a friend to all who knew him, he will be sorely missed.

He lost his life, to give someone else theirs. His sacrifice and memory will forever be etched in our hearts. Please keep FF Bucio and his family in your prayers.

“Been Hit By A Brick Lately??”
By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in a new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick hit the Jag’s side door! He slammed on the brakes and spun the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

He jumped out of the car, grabbed some kid and pushed him up against parked car shouting, “What was that all about and who are you? Just what do you think you are you doing?” Building up a head of steam he went on. “That’s a new car and that brick you threw scratched the paint on my car and is going to cost a lot of money to repair. Why did you do it?”

“Please mister, please, I’m sorry, I didn’t know what else to do”, pleaded the youngster. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop...” Tears were dripping down the boy’s chin as he pointed around the parked car. “It’s my brother,” he said. “He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair he’s paralyzed and I can’t lift him up.”

Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, “Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He’s hurt and he’s too heavy for me.”

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be okay.
“Thank you and may God bless you,” the grateful child said to him. The man then watched the little boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long walk back to his Jaguar...a long slow walk. He never did repair the side door. He kept the scratch to remind himself, not to go through life so fast, that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention.

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes while running to 'make a living', we're too busy to listen, and He has to throw a brick at us, to slow us down.

**Some points to ponder...**

You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future. G-d always gives His best to those, who leave the choice with Him. Thank G-d for what you have, TRUST G-D for what you need. If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday and the worries of tomorrow, you have no today to be thankful for.

Take time to laugh, for it is the music of the soul.

To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it. We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for. Happiness is enhanced by others, but does not depend upon others. For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back. Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, because in life, when you bring sunshine to others, It shines upon you too and makes you feel warm inside.

Summer is here, don't forget, take a few moments each day to share some time and perhaps a good laugh with your loved ones, you both deserve it.

And here is a personal message to my flock. With a heart filled with gratitude to the Lord, I will be making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land mid-summer. I thank the Lord for giving me this honor and privilege. As I have done in the past, I have a custom of going to the Holy Wall and doing a special prayer service for my flock, First Responders in the Police and Fire service. In the service we pray, that G-d always be with you as you face your daily challenges, and that G-d keep all of you safe.

We pray that He always keep you and your loved ones in His loving care. For those interested, there is an old custom of writing our prayer requests on a piece of paper and inserting the prayers in the cracks of the Holy Wall. For those that wish, I would be honored to take your prayer request to the Holy Wall and place them in the wall. Please mail it to me, before July 12th at: 3008 W. Pratt, Chicago, Ill. 60645. On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. Amen.”

Compliments of your Chaplain
Rabbi Moshe Wolf
Investigation continues into death of CFD diver Juan Bucio during Chicago River rescue attempt
May 30, 2018 by Jessica D'Onofrio, Sarah Schulte and Rob Elgas

CHICAGO (WLS) -- An investigation continued Wednesday into how Juan Bucio, a veteran Chicago Fire Department diver, died during a rescue attempt on the Chicago River on Memorial Day.

Bucio, 46, died while searching for boater Alberto Lopez, 28, who still has not been found after falling into the Chicago River's South Branch.

A closer look at video, shot by an ABC7 photographer moments before Bucio disappeared under the water, shows him and his partner in trouble as a fire department boat comes by.

A source said that something may have been wrong with Bucio - a 15-year CFD veteran -- before he went under. A source said the video shows Bucio too low in the water, signaling a possible sign of trouble.

As crews on the boat called out to Bucio and his partner, the video shows Bucio go under the front of the boat while his partner puts his hands on the side to prevent himself from following.

Then there is a frantic search. Later, rescue crews pulled Bucio's body out of the river.

The Chicago Fire Department is now waiting for preliminary results from the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office which would tell them if Bucio sustained an injury that could have caused him to lose consciousness or if he may have suffered from a medical problem before he went under the boat, a source said.

The incident happened after both divers had been in the water for a while looking for the missing boater.

"They were searching for a person or persons in the water. An order was given to switch out divers to bring the second team in, give them a break. At that time they were coming towards the boat, his partner turned around and he was missing, that quick," said Jose Santiago, the CFD fire commissioner, at a Tuesday news conference.
As part of an investigation, Bucio's equipment is being analyzed, his air pressure tank is being checked and everyone who had contact with him before and during the incident is being interviewed, according to a source.

"Talking to the diver, he was face-to-face with him, he was looking at him, turned around, went back to talk to him, and he was gone," Santiago also said in that Tuesday news conference.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Visitation for Bucio will be held 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at St. Rita Shrine Chapel at West 77th Street and South Western Avenue on Chicago's Southwest Side. Funeral will be held at noon Monday at St. Rita. Burial will follow at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, 4101 S. Oak Park Ave., Stickney.

On Wednesday, Bucio's body was taken to a funeral home in Oak Lawn. Police and firefighters were there to pay respects, saluting as his flag-draped body passed by.

Tuesday night, the Ferris wheel at Navy Pier was lit up in honor of Bucio. In the Garfield Ridge neighborhood where he lived, red ribbons were wrapped around utility poles in his memory.

Colleagues remembered Bucio, a former lifeguard for the Chicago Park District, as an excellent swimmer, diver, athlete and team player who pushed others to be their best.

Bucio is a father of two sons, ages 7 and 10. He is also one of ten children, two of whom currently serve the city. His brother is a Chicago firefighter and his sister is a Chicago police officer.

**MISSING BOATER**

The search for Lopez, the missing boater, is now a recovery mission.

Lopez and two other friends had taken a boat for a ride downtown. As they were returning home in the river's South Branch, a larger boat went past and created a wake which caused their boat to jump, knocking Lopez off the boat, said one Lopez's friends on the boat.

Lopez, who was engaged to be married, came to Chicago in November to work construction.

His fiancee and three boys, ages 7, 4, and 9 months, are in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Once his body is found, they will send him to Mexico for burial.
Services announced for Chicago Fire Department diver who died during rescue call
05-31-2018 William Lee Chicago Tribune

Juan Bucio, 46, a Chicago Fire Department diver, was killed on Memorial Day as he and other divers searched the river for a missing boater.

Visitation and funeral arrangements have been announced for Chicago Fire Department diver Juan Bucio, who died this week during a rescue operation.

Visitation for Bucio, 46, will be held from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday at St. Rita of Cascia at 6243 S. Fairfield Ave., according to the Chicago Fire Department. The funeral will be at noon Monday at the church.

A "full honors burial" will follow at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, 4101 S. Oak Park Ave. in Stickney.

Bucio, a 15-year fire department veteran with more than a decade of experience on the dive team, disappeared under the water while searching for a man who had fallen off a boat on the South Branch of the Chicago River near Ashland Avenue Monday night.

He was pulled from the river and taken to Stroger Hospital, where he was pronounced dead about two hours after firefighters received the rescue call. The body of the man who fell from the boat has not been found.
Fire and police investigators are continuing to look into what happened during the rescue attempt, according to Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford. Autopsy results are pending, according to the Cook County medical examiner’s office.

The 100 Club of Chicago, which offers support to families of fallen first responders, has pledged educational assistance to Bucio’s young sons, 7 and 9.

**Family, Colleagues Honor Fallen Chicago FF**


JUNE 5, 2018 Tony Briscoe And Patrick M. O'connell Chicago Tribune

Chicago firefighter Juan Bucio, who died May 28 during a river rescue attempt, was laid to rest by family and friends in a somber ceremony Monday.

June 05--Juan Bucio was a man of few words.

Quiet but devoted. Stoic but determined. Disciplined and precise.

Bucio preferred to let his work do the talking, family and his fellow firefighters said, whether it was in rescues or training. He was frequently first in team dive tests. He jumped out of a helicopter on Father's Day to search for a boy missing near Jackson Park harbor.
From an early age, when he helped find his lost brother as the family crossed the border from Mexico into the United States, to his teenage years, when he was a lifeguard, to recent times as a father who dutifully helped his sons leave safely for school, Bucio wanted to help, rescue and serve.

He strove to better himself and those around him, and when he did speak up it was with a well-placed piece of encouragement or to-the-point directive.

"Knock it off," he'd say, shrugging his shoulders, "Stop with the baby tears." And he wasn't one to wallow.

"Dude," he would say, a favorite among his few words, "you gotta keep going." Bucio's sons, other relatives, friends and firefighter family tried to press forward Monday, gathering for a funeral Mass to remember and salute their father, brother and comrade.

Dozens of Chicago police and fire vehicles gathered outside St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel at 7740 S. Western Ave., where trees bore red ribbons tied in bows and a sign read, "Let a perpetual light shine upon firefighter Juan Bucio."

Bucio, 46, a 15-year veteran of the Fire Department, died a week earlier after jumping into the South Branch of the Chicago River near Ashland Avenue to try to save a man who had fallen off a boat. Bucio was pulled from the water after he
was separated from his partner and was later pronounced dead at Stroger Hospital. Investigators continue to examine the circumstances of what happened in the river. Friends of the missing boater say they have found his body, but authorities have yet to confirm that.

During the bilingual service, family members described Bucio, a divorced father of two boys, ages 10 and 9, as the strong and quiet one.

"I hope I can be that now," said his sister Maria, a Chicago police officer. "We're all hurting."

One of Bucio's last social media posts was about the recent Avengers movie, and Chicago Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago said the fallen firefighter was a superhero in his own right for the way he served the city.

"He was quiet, steady and calm," Santiago said. "He was the go-to guy."

Gov. Bruce Rauner and Mayor Rahm Emanuel also praised Bucio's dedication.

Family members and fellow firefighters said Bucio's desire to help and to be around water were deeply ingrained traits that sprouted at a young age and continued into his teens, when he became a Park District lifeguard. After joining the Chicago Police Department, he became a firefighter in 2003. His eyes set on the dive team, he joined it four years later.

"It was in his blood, from his very earliest days," said the Rev. Gary Graf, pastor at St. Procopius, Bucio's home church. "He fell in love with the water."
Sacrificing one's life for another, especially someone you do not know, Graf said, is a noble act.

Graf asked Bucio's two sons, Joshua and Jacob, seated in the front pew, to take a few steps forward and turn to look at those in attendance. Graf said the boys could count on everyone present in the days ahead, then asked the crowd to applaud for them.

"Know that his spirit is with you," Graf said. "He gave his life out of love of others."

At the end of the service, a silver Fire Department bell was rung in ceremonial tribute. Then the uniformed personnel quietly filed out of the sanctuary, joining hundreds standing in neat rows along the steps of the church.

Bucio's sons and other family members joined them outside, the boys' mother hugging them tight as the pallbearers carried the casket down the steps, past rows of saluting firefighters. They lifted it high above their heads and delicately inched it forward to crew members atop a firetruck, who secured it in place for the ride to the cemetery.
Earlier Monday morning, firetrucks with black and purple bunting led a procession along Western Avenue to the doors of the church. Leading the way was the scuba team's vehicle. Engine No. 13 carried Bucio's casket, draped with the Chicago municipal flag on the back and Bucio's fire jacket and helmet on the front.

Hundreds of first responders raised their hands to salute as a contingent of firefighters wearing kilts played the drums and bagpipes, marking the body's arrival.

Retired Chicago firefighter Alberto Cruz greeted members of the Indianapolis Fire Department before joining others entering the church. Cruz, who retired this year after a 38-year career, said the attendance of firefighters from across the state and the country epitomizes the sense of family that exists in firehouses everywhere.

"Guys pick a career and sometimes there's a downside to it," Cruz said. "But we all know we have each other's backs. We're here for the family today to let them know we're still thinking about them and praying for them. It's a shame that it's a part of the job. We're fortunate that there haven't been a lot (of line-of-duty deaths), but when it happens, it's even worse."

Members of Bucio's air and rescue team served as pallbearers and carefully unloaded the casket before heading in. One member of the team breathed heavily, clenching his fist as he fought back tears.

Bucio's sons, their gloved hands gently resting on the top of the casket and their heads bowed, led the pallbearers into the church.

Intricate flower arrangements created in the shape of firefighter insignias, the American flag, a firehouse and a pair of boxing gloves adorned the front of the chapel. Light streamed through the stained-glass windows and skylights of the sanctuary as Bucio's family and friends arrived, sharing hugs, kisses and handshakes.

White-gloved, crisply dressed firefighters lined the entry rows to the church, handing out programs and greeting mourners. A photo of Bucio in a dry suit with one foot aboard a helicopter graced the front of the programs.

Chicago firefighter Kelvin Westmoreland admired the decals with Bucio's name on the side of the scuba team's rig, one in block letters and another below the team's Maltese cross-shaped patch. A firefighter on the city's West Side and the father of a 5-year-old, Westmoreland said he couldn't sleep after hearing about Bucio's death and seeing photos of his two boys. But like fellow firefighters across the city, he willed himself back to work after the holiday weekend.

"I didn't know him personally, but he was a brother of the department," Westmoreland said. "One thing about us, we take blows and get right back into
the action. If something happens, you don't worry about getting injured or death. We just do our jobs."

At the end of the afternoon, when the procession arrived at the cemetery, a fire engine carried the casket to the burial site, followed closely by the Chicago Police Department's mounted unit and the Fire Department's air and sea rescue team, which marched in formation.

A priest eulogized Bucio, noting the similarities between his last name and buzo, the Spanish word for diver. A duet of trumpeters played taps. The bagpipers played "Amazing Grace." And the honor guard folded the Chicago flag from the atop the coffin and presented it to Bucio's family.

**Answers won’t stop worries**

http://www.beverlyreview.net/opinion/our_opinion/article_83c28b48-68c5-11e8-b83d-c3192f3194ac.html

Jun 5, 2018

Life is precious, and nothing brings that to mind more than the recent death of Chicago Fire Department (CFD) diver Juan Bucio.

Bucio, 46, died on Memorial Day while searching in the Chicago River for a boater who fell overboard.

The body of that boater, Alberto Lopez, 28, was found four days later. He was reportedly not wearing a life jacket and did not know how to swim, and his death serves as another sad reminder of the importance of understanding water-safety guidelines.

Bucio lived in Garfield Ridge, and his two sons attend Mt. Greenwood Elementary School; so the tragedy hits close to home, as many do when they involve Chicago police officers and firefighters.

Bucio’s funeral on June 4 brought back memories of other local fallen first responders, including Daniel Capuano, a firefighter from Mt. Greenwood who died in December 2015, and Herbie Johnson, a firefighter from Morgan Park who died in November 2012.

Like Bucio, their funeral services were held at the Shrine Chapel at St. Rita High School, with hundreds of firefighters and police officers paying their respects.

The Enze, Menzer, Walsh and Quinn Retirees’, Widows’ and Children’s Assistance Fund and the 100 Club of Chicago have set up funds to help the family of Bucio, just as they always do when a first responder dies. Residents can do a noble deed and donate money to help Bucio’s family.
The local community usually has a connection to Chicago firefighters and police officers who have died over the past decades. Theirs is a dangerous job, but first responders are always willing to risk their lives to protect others.

According to reports, since 2000, 13 Chicago firefighters have died in the line of duty. Nationally, 39 have died this year.

Before Bucio’s death, nine firefighters died during water rescues in the U.S. from 2000 to 2017.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel called Bucio “a real hero.” Chicago lost another brave man, and two more children lost their father, just as the children of Capuano and Johnson did before them.

According to the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office, the cause and manner of Bucio’s death is pending. Questions will remain for weeks, but we hope answers will give Bucio’s family some measure of closure.

Unfortunately, the worries of the wives, husbands and children about the safety of their first responders will never end.

**Emanuel uses Bucio death resolution to hit Trump on immigrant family separations**


06/27/2018 By Fran Spielman  @fspielman | email

An emotional Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Wednesday used a City Council resolution honoring former Chicago Fire Department diver Juan Bucio to blast President Donald Trump, without mentioning his political nemesis by name.

Bucio died during a Memorial Day rescue on the south branch of the Chicago River. His death triggered an outpouring of grief from across the city. His funeral was filled with pageantry and attracted firefighters from across the state and the nation.

On Wednesday, Fire Department brass and members of the Bucio family filled the VIP box in the City Council chambers as aldermen approved a death resolution honoring Bucio’s heroic rescue and ultimate sacrifice.

When it was Emanuel’s turn to close the debate, the mayor recalled the Bucio family’s immigrant, coming-to-America story that was first told by Bucio’s pastor at the funeral.

“Halfway through that journey on the Rio [Grande], your mother, like any mother, started to count the heads. She knew there was one missing. She said, ‘We’re not going.’ And Juan went back, found his sibling asleep under a tree, put him on his
back, reunited him with his family and then commenced the Bucio’s journey to Chicago,” Emanuel said, his voice breaking with emotion.

“At present, a mother who cared about her children enough to take risks to come to a great country with great ideals and great values and a city that embraced a better tomorrow today would be separated from her children. Today, under a notion of zero tolerance, a mother who wouldn’t go a step further until that family was together would be ripped apart in the name of law and order.”

In celebrating “Juan and what he gave this city,” Emanuel said Chicago must also celebrate the “values of the Bucio family” that brought them here to an America that is no longer as welcoming as it was.

“We, as a city, will never turn our back on people who journey here, parents who sacrifice, parents who struggle, because they believe like we believe in this country,” the mayor said.

“When we say you’re in our thoughts and our prayers, just remember how much of that is being challenged today. And let us remember the lesson of Mom Bucio. Not a step further unless we go together.”

Underscoring the mayor’s theme, framed signs were posted at the beginning and end of every row of aldermen in the City Council chambers. The signs read, “Families Belong Together,” with four red stars at the top and bottom of the sign to look a bit like the Chicago flag.

Also at Wednesday’s meeting, Ald Ray Lopez (15th) introduced a budget amendment that would bolster the Legal Defense Fund created to advise, represent and protect immigrants threatened with deportation—from $1.3 million to
$2.3 million.

The extra $1 million would come from the fund the judgment fund the city uses to bankroll settlements and pay outside counsel.

The move comes one day after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Trump’s travel ban.

CFD diver died from rare condition that caused heart failure
JULY 17, 2018 BY WGN WEB DESK

CHICAGO – The Cook County Medical Examiner released an official cause of death for Chicago Fire Department diver who died during a rescue in May. According to the medical examiner, 46-year-old Juan Bucio’s death has been ruled an accident.

The cause is listed as “asphyxia, with depletion of air from diving tank, due to cardiac arrhythmia due to lymphocytic myocarditis.”

Lymphocytic myocarditis is a rare cause of cardiovascular disease that can cause heart failure.

Bucio died over the Memorial Day holiday during a search for a man who had fallen off a boat in the South Branch of the Chicago River.

CFD diver Juan Bucio died of rare heart condition, authorities say
JULY 17, 2018

Authorities announced the cause of death of Chicago Fire Department diver Juan Bucio, who died on Memorial Day while searching for a man who fell off a boat on the Chicago River.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Bucio died of a rare heart condition called lymphocytic myocarditis that can cause heart failure. His death was also ruled accidental.

Bucio, 46, was a 15-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department, spending the last 11 years on the Marine and Dive Operations Unit.

Bucio was part of a crew that was searching for a man who fell off a boat and into the river in the 2600-block of South Ashland Avenue at about 8 p.m. on Memorial Day. CFD officials said Bucio disappeared suddenly and lost communication with his team while searching for that man, identified as 28-year-old Alberto Lopez.
"Yelled out a mayday and they sent in another team to find firefighter Juan Bucio. He was located near the bottom," Chicago Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago said. "An order was given to switch out divers to bring the second team in, give them a break. At that time they were coming towards the boat. His partner turned around and he was missing. That quick."

Once divers found him, he was rushed with a police escort to Stroger Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Bucio was honored with purple bunting hung around the city, and several fundraisers have been held in his name.

Prior to CFD, Bucio was a Chicago police officer from 2000-2003, a police spokesman confirmed.

The Chicago Fire Department said it's examining the results of the autopsy as part of its continuing investigation.

Firefighter Juan Bucio's death ruled accident, caused by asphyxia and rare heart condition.

**Juan Bucio, 46, a Chicago Fire Department diver, was killed on Memorial Day as he and other divers searched the river for a missing boater.**


07/18/2018  Ese Olumhense  Chicago Tribune
Chicago Fire Department diver Juan Bucio’s death in May as he tried to find a man who had fallen off a boat in the Chicago River was the result of asphyxiation due to improper beating of the heart, or arrhythmia, and has been ruled an accident, the Cook County medical examiner’s office announced Tuesday.

The 46-year-old firefighter’s arrhythmia was caused by lymphocytic myocarditis, a rare cause of cardiovascular disease that can lead to heart failure, the medical examiner determined.

An inspection of Bucio’s scuba equipment determined that his air supply likely became exhausted while underwater. And though Bucio’s equipment was “used but well-maintained,” an inspector noted, it did not include a depth gauge or time monitor, tools that might have prevented the death of the father of two.

“This death may have been averted if the diver had been using a gas integrated dive computer with visual and audio alarms warning the diver and his dive partner when approaching minimum safe cylinder pressure,” Craig S. Jenni of Dive and Marine Consultants International, which conducted the inspection, wrote in the report to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Jenni could not be immediately reached for comment Tuesday.

Lymphocytic myocarditis is an “aggressive response” by the body to a viral infection — like a cold or flu virus — that leads to inflammation of the heart muscle, said Dr. Allan S. Anderson, a cardiologist at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

“Often what happens is people will have a viral infection that they attribute to a cold,” said Anderson, who specializes in heart failure. “Subsequent to that they develop symptoms of heart muscle dysfunction, they’ll develop congestive heart failure or they’ll start having abnormal heart rhythms.”

Fire officials continue to investigate Bucio’s death, a department spokesman said. “The Fire Department will review the autopsy as part of its continuing investigation,” spokesman Larry Langford said.

Bucio, a 15-year Fire Department veteran with more than a decade of experience on the dive team, disappeared under the water while searching for a man who had
fallen off a boat on the South Branch of the Chicago River near Ashland Avenue on May 28.

Bucio was pulled from the river and taken to Stroger Hospital, where he was pronounced dead about two hours after firefighters received the rescue call. Fire Department documents from Bucio’s autopsy file indicate he “remained pulseless” on the way to the emergency room.

The body of the man who Bucio was trying to save was found by the man’s friends days later.

Chicago Tribune’s Jeremy Gorner contributed.eolumhense@chicagotribune.com

MORE COVERAGE

- Family of diver, Firefighter Juan Bucio: 'Words alone cannot express the gratitude ... for all the love' »
- Fallen Chicago firefighter recalled as ‘excellent citizen of Chicago’ at visitation »
- Family, friends remember fallen Chicago firefighter as strong, steady: 'He was the go-to guy' »

CFD diver who died on search for missing boater signaled he was OK — then sank
07/18/2018 By Mitch Dudek @mitchdudek | email

Chicago Fire Department Diver Juan Bucio surfaced from the murky water of the Chicago River and, when asked by his partner if he was alright, nodded in the affirmative.

It was his last communication. Moments later Bucio sank to the bottom of the river and by the time his fellow divers found him and hauled him from the water, he had no pulse.

CFD Diver Juan Bucio, who died in May, worked out of this firehouse Downtown. | Rick Majewski/For the Sun-Times.
The details of Bucio’s death, which occurred while searching for missing boater Alberto Lopez the evening of May 28, were contained in an autopsy report released Tuesday.

According to the report, Bucio had a rare heart condition that caused him to become distressed. His death was caused by “asphyxia with depletion of air from diving tank due to cardiac arrhythmia due to lymphocytic myocarditis.” His death was determined to be an accident.

Bucio and his dive partner, Michael Reyes, descended from a fire department helicopter into the river near 26th and Ashland. The two were tethered together.

At one point Bucio related to Reyes their tether line was caught on debris, Chief Ron Dorneker told an investigator for the medical examiner’s office. Reyes stopped, backed up, the line was freed and the search continued, according to Dorneker, who was in charge of the dive scene that night.

Dorneker requested a check of their dive tank air capacity, and though each man had about 10 minutes of air time before reaching the limit at which divers are required to surface, he ordered them to head up.

According to the interview with Dornecker, Reyes said he and Bucio surfaced without incident.

Once at the surface, Reyes looked at Bucio and asked if he was alright, which is protocol, Dorneker said. “Bucio had responded in the affirmative by nodding his head,” he said.

The gesture was one of three acceptable responses, the others are patting your head or verbal confirmation.
As Reyes was helped onto a boat, Chicago Police Marine Unit officers radioed a Mayday after they saw Bucio sink and were unable to get him to respond to radio messages, according to Dorneker.

A fire department spokesman was not immediately available Wednesday to provide details on the protocol of tethered divers.

Bucio, 46, was recovered from a depth of 17 to 19 feet, about 10 to 15 minutes after sinking. His diving equipment was intact, his mask sealed on his face. And his air tank was empty, the autopsy report states.

Bucio had lymphocytic myocarditis, “a rare cause of cardiovascular disease that can cause heart failure,” and in Bucio’s case it led to cardiac arrhythmia, or “the improper beating of the heart,” according to the medical examiner.

Bucio’s main oxygen supply “likely became exhausted while underwater” and he didn’t switch to a backup supply, according to a consultant’s review of the diver’s equipment that was ordered by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Bucio was “distressed due to the heart condition,” medical examiner’s spokeswoman Becky Schlikerman said.

The review of Bucio’s diving equipment showed it “used but well maintained.” Consultant Craig Jenni wrote in a report submitted last week to OSHA that Bucio’s gear “functioned as designed, however the diver likely exhausted the primary gas supply, which created a task-loaded situation that became too overwhelming.
for the diver to resolve such that the diver sank to depth unable to self-rescue.”

Jenni suggested Bucio’s death “may have been averted if the diver had been using a gas-integrated dive computer with visual and audio alarms warning the diver and his dive partner when approaching minimum safe cylinder pressure.”

Lymphocytic myocarditis typically occurs in about 22 out of 100,000 cases, with a major metro-area hospital usually seeing just one or two cases per year, according to Dr. Allen Anderson, medical director of the Center for Heart Failure at Northwestern Medicine’s Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute.

The condition is typified by inflammation and white blood cells within the weakened heart muscle, and while it is linked to certain viruses, patients might not show symptoms ahead of a major event like an arrhythmia, Anderson said.

“Lots of times, people don’t know they have it,” Anderson said. “This is like a lightning strike, out of the blue.”

A routine physical would not detect the condition, Anderson said.

The fire department is reviewing Bucio’s autopsy as part of its own ongoing investigation, CFD spokesman Larry Langford said Tuesday.

Bucio joined the department in 2003 and had been on the dive team since 2007. He is survived by his sons, ages 7 and 9, and nine siblings.

The body of 28-year-old Alberto Lopez — the man whom Bucio had been summoned to rescue — was found in the river four days later by friends who said they had been unsatisfied with Chicago police search efforts. Lopez, who fell from a boat into a river, was a father of three young children who worked in carpentry to support his family in Mexico.

Mitch Dudek Follow me on Twitter @mitchdudek Email: mdudek@suntimes.com
Golden Knights honor late CFD diver Juan Bucio at Air and Water Show
AUGUST 19, 2018, BY WGN WEB DESK,

CHICAGO — Amid the spectacle of the Chicago Air and Water Show Sunday, the U.S. Army Golden Knights took time to honor Juan Bucio, the Chicago Fire Department rescue diver who died on Memorial Day.

The army parachute team presented Bucio’s sons with a commemorative batons during a special ceremony Sunday.

They also presented a Thin Red Line Flag, which recognizes the courage of firefighters, to members of Bucio’s firehouse. The flag will fly there to honor all fallen first responders.

Fallen CFD diver Juan Bucio's badge added to wall of honor
August 21, 2018 By Sarah Schulte

CHICAGO (WLS) -- The Chicago Fire Department paid solemn tribute to fallen officer Juan Bucio in two special ceremonies Tuesday.

Bucio died on Memorial Day while searching for a man who fell off a boat on the Chicago River. The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Bucio, 46, died of a rare heart condition called lymphocytic myocarditis that can cause heart failure. His death was also ruled accidental.

Bucio's two sons, Joshua and Jacob, were on hand at the Robert J. Quinn Fire
Academy in the South Loop, to retire Bucio's badge, No. 5115, to the Wall of Honor, which honors firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

Bucio's siblings, brother Isaac and sister Maria, said ceremonies like this help keep fallen firefighters' memories alive.

"It means my brother will live on," Maria said.

"My brother paid the ultimate price for this city and he will be remembered and nobody will forget that," he said. "That's the reason why we do stuff like this."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel agreed, calling Bucio a hero.

"Chicago will never forget Juan Bucio's countless acts of selflessness, his commitment to serving others and his heroic sacrifice on behalf of our city," Emanuel said.

Fire Commissioner Santiago said the city and fire department are better because of Bucio.

"To Josh and Jake, my prayer is one day you'll have your own children and you will come to this place and see that your father was a hero and most precious son of Chicago," he said. "I hope and pray that badge 5115 provides a sense of pride to Joshua and Jacob in all the days to follow."

Bucio's sons, brother and sister Maria also laid a brick with Juan's name on it at the Chicago Fire Department's Firefighter/Paramedic Memorial Park, right along the lakefront with the helicopter that Bucio deployed from that fateful day flying above.

"This was his home. This is where he is most comfortable. So to be here for this, it's an honor for us," said Ron Dorneker, Deputy District Chief of CFD Marine & Dive Operations.

Bucio was a 15-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department, spending the last 11 years on the Marine and Dive Operations Unit. Prior to CFD, Bucio was a Chicago police officer from 2000-2003, a police spokesman confirmed.
Juan Bucio said the ceremonies represent a brotherhood that honors the fallen to the full extent.

"I was just commenting to (my sister) how many people I know on those bricks and I think it goes to show they'll never be forgotten, they'll always be remembered," he said.

**Fallen CFD diver Juan Bucio remembered 1 year after death**

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May 28, 2019 By Karen Jordan

The Chicago Fire Department commemorated the first anniversary of the death of CFD dive team member Juan Bucio.

CHICAGO (WLS) -- Tuesday marks one year since the death of Chicago Fire Department diver Juan Bucio.

Bucio, 46, was searching for a boater who fell into the Chicago River when he lost his life last Memorial Day weekend.

More than 100 colleagues gathered Tuesday morning at the spot along the Chicago River where Bucio died while searching for a missing boater. Bucio's family, including his two sons, was also in attendance.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Bucio died of a rare heart condition called lymphocytic myocarditis that can cause heart failure. His death was ruled an accident.

Alberto Lopez, the man Bucio was searching for after he fell off a boat in the south branch of the river, also died.

The memorial was organized by the Chicago Fire Department Gold Badge Society, which was founded by families of firefighters and paramedics who died in the line of duty.

"It's our way of paying forward because we don't want these new families to have to feel like we did," said Allyson Coglianese, whose father, Chicago fire lieutenant
Edmond Coglianese, died while fighting a fire at the Mark Twain Hotel on Super Bowl Sunday 1986.

The fire department dedicated a Scuba Dog statue at the fire academy in honor of Bucio, with his name and badge number on the wet suit. The design was collaboration by Paul Boeckman and Bob Jones, who wanted to do their part to commemorate Bucio.

"We tried to do something that was interesting and different than most people have seen before," Boeckman said.

A wreath in honor of Bucio's service was dropped into the river not far from where he lost his life.

Dog Statue Dedicated to Fallen Chicago Rescue Diver
MAY 28, 2019 JAVONTE ANDERSON CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chicago firefighter Juan Bucio died during a rescue attempt in the Chicago River last year. The department commemorated his service with a ceremony Tuesday.

Exactly a year after firefighter Juan Bucio, a Chicago Fire Department diver, died during a rescue attempt in the Chicago River, the department held ceremonies to commemorate his service, unveiling a scuba dog sculpture to ensure his legacy and sacrifice will be remembered.

"This is something that will be here for the family, and for the boys, forever," Chicago Fire Commissioner Richard C. Ford II said referencing the scuba dog while speaking at the Chicago Fire Academy, 558 W. De Koven St.

The service dog statue wears a wet suit equipped with a scuba mask, tank, and diving fins. Bucio's name is on the wet suit and the dog is wearing Bucio's badge number.
Bucio died last year while trying to rescue a man who had fallen off a boat on the South Branch of the Chicago River. Alberto Lopez, the man Bucio was searching for, also died.

Dozens of Chicago firefighters, donning their dress blue uniforms, were in attendance along with Bucio’s family and two sons. Earlier Tuesday, the Fire Department held a memorial bell-ringing ceremony at Canalport Riverwalk Park, near 2900 S. Ashland Ave., near where Bucio died.

"Not only is his badge here on the wall, but now the dedication of the scuba dog will always be there so that the family and his sons have a connection knowing how the city feels about their dad's sacrifice," Ford said at the academy.

Bucio was the 13th Chicago firefighter and most recent to die in the line of duty since 2000, according to the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

Bucio joined the Fire Department in 2004 and became a member of the dive team in 2007. Bucio has a sister who is a Chicago police officer and a brother who is a Chicago firefighter.

Check back for updates.

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