

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Apparent drowning in Wirth Lake

July 19, 2011 (Minneapolis) – At approximately 3:45 p.m., the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an apparent drowning in Wirth Lake in Minneapolis.

The victim was a 17-year-old male from Minneapolis. He had been swimming with three other teenage boys in the lake. At the time of the incident, the victim was swimming with two of them. They were swimming toward a submerged dock when the victim called out for help. His two friends in the water swam to him but they were not able to rescue him.

First responders were called to the scene and the following agencies responded: Minneapolis Park Police, Minneapolis Police, Minneapolis Fire, Golden Valley Police, and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. First responders began to search the water for the victim. At approximately 5 p.m., the Sheriff's Office Dive Team located the victim approximately 35 feet from shore.

At the time of this incident, Wirth Lake was closed due to construction in the area. Swimmers are urged not to use Wirth Lake.

The Sheriff's Office will investigate the incident.

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens to use safety precautions while swimming.

- Swim at a location where a lifeguard is on duty. Yet do not over-rely on lifeguards. They should be considered one layer of safety.
- When young children are in or near water, active supervision by a designated adult is needed.
- Non-swimmers or weak swimmers should wear life jackets in swimming pools or natural bodies of water. Active supervision is needed even when life jackets are in use.
- Learn CPR.

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