
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



Water Safety

The Lane County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team, with the assistance of Eugene / Springfield Fire, responded to multiple water emergencies over the holiday weekend, including four on the Willamette River and two on the McKenzie River. The rescues on the McKenzie River occurred approximately ½ mile downstream from Harvest Landing in Springfield where fallen trees and other environmental factors can become a hazard. There are large rocks just under the surface of the water at the river left bank (pictured on page 2 of this release) that boaters should be aware of. A log has already been removed from the water, and the Sheriff's Office is evaluating the area for other potential hazards.

While the rivers in Lane County provide a great place to recreate, they can be unpredictable and dangerous. Below are a few safety tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe while out on the water:

- Life jackets should be worn by everyone in and around the water, even proficient swimmers.
- Scout out the area you plan to float or boat before going out onto the water. The marine environment is constantly changing, requiring those recreating on the water to get up to date information on potential water hazards, area conditions, and the class of rapids that can be found in an area.

Obstructions that have been reported to the Oregon State Marine Board can be found on the following website: <http://bit.ly/29rG6uL>

- Pool toys are not designed for the river environment and should not be used outside of the pool as they can be easily punctured.
- Tying together tubes and rafts can increase the chances of a water related event. Ropes used to tie together flotation devices can get caught on rocks and logs.
- Know your skill level and stay in the areas where the body of water is at or below your skill level.
- Alcohol, drugs, and water do not mix.

LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



Prepared by: Sergeant Carrie Carver 541-682-4179