



Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton

Media Release

Water Safety Advisory Along Huron River

June 4, 2011

Huron River recreational use may be dangerous!

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Marine Safety Division is warning of dangerous conditions along the Huron River. Due to recent weather conditions of significant rainfall those planning to spend time on the Huron River are urged to reconsider.

Water levels are currently high and in many areas flooding has created hazardous, rough and swift water conditions. This current environment is capable of dislodging tree stumps, debris, and underwater hazards along with a significant undertow.

Yesterday (6/3/2011) two kayakers entered the Huron River near the Belle Rd. launch area and Hudson Mills Metro Park. Due to swift currents one of the kayakers struck an underwater stump and was flipped from his kayak. The victim was able to swim to a small safety area/island but was unable to make it to shore due to the swift current. A water rescue was necessary in order for the victim to make it safely to shore.

Today (6/4/2011) a family of four (2 adults and 2 children) launched their canoe on the Huron River near the Belle Rd. launch area and Hudson Mills Metro Park. Soon after entering the water the swift water carried them into an underwater hazard flipping their canoe. All four were rescued and returned safely to shore.

All victims were rescued with non-life threatening injuries. However, the conditions of the river were clearly played a role in both situations.

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