

Dad charged in drowning of 5 kids

by UPI

HOUSTON -- Police have charged a Houston man with manslaughter in the deaths of five children who were in his car when he drove into a ditch filled with water.

Chanton Jenkins, 32, was charged Sunday with four counts of intoxication manslaughter. Emergency crews were still searching for the body of one of the five children, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Jenkins is the father of three of the children who died Saturday when he drove his car off the road into a drainage ditch where the water was reportedly 9 feet deep following thunderstorms and flash floods in the Houston area.

Jenkins -- who managed to escape with his brother and his 10-year-old daughter -- failed a field sobriety test, the newspaper said.

Relatives told the Chronicle the victims were: Karrinton Jenkins, 1; Hallie Jenkins, 4; Devin Jenkins, 4; Malik Barlow, 7; and Dreton Thompson, 11. Crews were searching Sunday for the body of Hallie Jenkins.

Police said Chanton Jenkins answered his cell phone just before the crash.

A 76-year-old man was killed during the flooding in Houston Saturday when he was trapped as he tried to drive through a flooded underpass.

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