

Teenager Drowns in Deschutes River Near Sunriver

by Richard Burton

A 15 year old Gresham boy drowned in the Deschutes River Wednesday, August 9 about 4:30 pm while playing on a rope swing with a group of 5 other teenagers staying at Sunriver. The accident occurred between Sunriver and Benham Falls.

According to a news release by the Deschutes County Sheriffs Office, the young man and 5 others, 2 boys and 3 girls ages 14 - 17, were swinging over the water from a rope that was tied to a tree along the river bank. The victim swung out on the rope, 15 to 20 feet above the water, and landed face first into the river. He surfaced, then went back underwater, said Sgt. Marvin Combs.

Summoned by a call to 911, Bend Fire Department and Sunriver Fire Department personnel and USFS responded to the area and made contact with the reporting party. The Deschutes County Sheriff's Search and Rescue were called to the scene and arrived with boats, their Dive Team, and a dog team trained in water rescue. They were able to locate the victim in about 8 feet of water approximately 50 feet downstream from where he was last seen.

The victims name had not been released as of Wednesday night.

Benham Falls is about 5 miles North of Sunriver on the Deschutes River