

Media Release

On 08/22/09 at approximately 1410 hours, Kootenai County Sheriff's Deputies, officers from the Coeur d' Alene Police Department and personnel from Kootenai County Fire & Rescue responded to the Spokane River in the area of Mill River regarding an injury boat accident involving a 1998 eighteen foot Blue Water motorboat and a 1964 fifteen foot Larson motorboat.

The initial investigation revealed that Daniel J. Zimmerman 26 of Post Falls Idaho and his friend Jack A. Miller Jr. 30 of Stite Idaho were stationary in their 1998 Blue Water motorboat fishing on the south side of the Spokane River near Mill River.

The operator of the 1964 Larson motorboat, John F. Klinefelter 45 of Coeur d' Alene Idaho and his friend Jason C. Fisk 39 of Post Falls were traveling up the Spokane River heading towards Coeur d' Alene when the motorboat they were in suddenly veered hard to the right, resulting in a collision with the Blue Water and Mr. Miller, who was ejected from the boat. After the initial collision, the Larson motorboat ran into the South shore. None of the occupants of either boat were wearing life jackets.

Responding Deputies concluded Klinefelter had been operating his vessel under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. Klinefelter submitted to a breath test resulting a BAC of .12. The legal limit is .08 in Idaho. Klinefelter was taken to the Kootenai County Public Safety Building where he was booked on a felony charge of Aggravated OUI (operating under the influence.)

Both vessels were removed off the water and taken the Sheriff's Department for further inspection.

This is the fourth boating related fatality in Kootenai County this season and the Sheriff's Department would like to remind recreational enthusiasts to be mindful of water safety issues.

Sheriff Rocky Watson
By: Sgt. M. Street
Re: 09-20790
Date: 09-22-09 @ 1900 hrs.
208-446-1300