



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF, BEN WOLFINGER

UNDERSHERIFF, TRAVIS CHANEY

MEDIA RELEASE

May 9th, 2013

On May 9th, 2013 at approximately 1:15 PM the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Recreation Safety Section, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue Team, the Coeur d' Alene Fire Department and Kootenai County Fire and Rescue responded to Lake Coeur d' Alene near Osprey Point for a reported injury boat accident. It was reported that three people were in the water after flipping over a canoe.

One of the subjects, who was identified as Jason S. Parker a 58 year old male from Coeur d' Alene, was able to swim to shore. The other two subjects, who were identified as Sierra R. Parker, a 32 year old male and Ronald G. Sever, a 65 year old male both from Coeur d' Alene were rescued by a Sheriff's Office Patrol Boat.

All parties were treated and released at the scene by medical personnel for the beginning stages of hypothermia. None of the occupants had life jackets available. It was reported that the occupants were in the water for approximately 30 minutes. Alcohol was a factor in the incident.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office would like to remind all boaters that if you venture out this weekend to enjoy the warm spring weather, make sure you have proper life jackets available. The water temperature on Lake Coeur d' Alene is currently in the mid 40s and hypothermia will begin to set in within a matter of minutes. Additionally, the water level on the Spokane River is low due to the Post Falls dam being open for the spring run-off. With the low water levels, hazards that are normally not an issue during the summer months are exposed. Boaters are asked to use caution when travelling up and down the Spokane River.

If you have questions about boating laws, boating safety questions or want to take a Boating Safety Class you are asked to contact the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Recreation Safety Section at 208-446-2250 or you can contact us at www.kcsheriff.com.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Sergeant Ryan Higgins
Case #13-10439