

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
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Chris Hoffman, Sheriff

Stephen Holton, Undersheriff

*****Special Press Release 03-26-2015*****

On Wednesday, March 25th, at approximately 12:35 p.m., the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office, Ravalli County Search and Rescue, Victor Volunteer Fire Department, and Stevensville Volunteer Fire Department along with Emergency Medical Services from Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital responded to an emergency on the Bitterroot River between Tucker Crossing and Victor Crossing. The investigation to this point indicates that three adult men were fishing when their boat struck a submerged log, tipping the three men from the boat. Two of the men were able to get back into the boat but one of the men was swept away by the current.

Another man fishing from the bank saw the victim going downstream and called 911. The victim was not wearing a life jacket or flotation device. When emergency crews arrived they located the victim submerged in the river north of Victor Crossing. The seventy-four-year-old male was pronounced deceased at the scene. The preliminary manner of death is being ruled as an accident and an official cause of death is pending autopsy results. The victim's name is being withheld pending notification of family.

Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman reminds all river recreationalists that the Bitterroot River is dangerous, and particularly so during the spring season when the water is high and current very swift. Users should always wear flotation devices and be extremely aware of changing channels and underwater obstructions that can cause accidents.