



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2015

AGENCIES SEEK MISSING SWIMMER

FAIRBANKS, Alaska

Last night at approximately 8:20 p.m., Tyler Cover, a 30 year old Fairbanks resident, and another male jumped from the foot bridge by the Golden Heart Park into the Chena River. Tyler attempted to swim to the north shore but witnesses report he was pulled into the center and was last seen in the center of the river just past the Cushman Street Bridge. The other male swam to the south shore and got out of the river safely.

Witnesses called 911 and the Fairbanks Fire Department responded and received mutual aid from the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) agency, Fort Wainwright Fire and Emergency Services, and University of Alaska Fire Departments. Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR) dispatched members from the PAWS dog search team to look for Mr. Cover along the banks of the river. All teams responding searched the river in boats and a body recovery net was set up by VPSO across the river downstream.

The search was suspended at 12:30 a.m. this morning and the Fairbanks Fire Department turned the search over to Tanana Chiefs Conference Village Public Safety Officers. The recovery efforts will continue this morning at 10:00 a.m. The Incident Command Center is located just down river from the Barnette Street Bridge on north side of the Chena River.

TCC VPSO Coordinator Sergeant Jody Juneby-Potts is requesting volunteers to help in the search efforts and is cautioning any recreational boaters on the Chena River to be aware of the recovery net, which is crossing the full width of the river at N64 58.6125' W150 47.5841'.

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