

**Plumas County Sheriff's Office
1400 E. Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971**

***** News Release *****

Circumstance: Drowning at Frenchman Lake

Date of Incident: 8/14/2020

Time of Incident: 3:56 pm

Location of Occurrence: Crystal Point Day Use, Frenchman Lake

Agencies Involved: Plumas County Sheriff's Office, Plumas County Search and Rescue, Plumas County Boat Patrol, United States Forest Service, Sierra Valley Fire Department and Easter Plumas Health Care.

Decedent: Jorge Garcia Jr, 42 years of age from Reno, NV

On Friday, August 14 at approx. 4:00 pm the Sheriff's Dispatch Center received several calls reporting a possible drowning victim at the Crystal Point Day Use area, Frenchman Lake. Several agencies responded in an attempt to locate the victim who was submerged in murky water and were unsuccessful. Plumas County Search and Rescue arrived and with the use of a Sheriff's patrol boat was able to locate and recover the swimmer. The swimmer was identified as Jorge Garcia Jr, 42 years of age from Reno NV.

From witnesses on scene Garcia was attempting to swim across a small cove which was approx. 450 feet across. Garcia became exhausted and attempted to return to shore and slipped beneath the surface of the water. Garcia's children attempted to help but were unable to hold on and Garcia slipped beneath the surface of the water.

The Plumas County Sheriff's Office would like to extend our condolences to the Jorge Garcia's family.

The Plumas County Sheriff's Department now has two victims of drownings this summer and would like to remind the public to review the basic rules of water safety. These tips will help keep everyone healthy and safe in or around the water:

Be aware of water and weather conditions. Whenever you are near a natural water environment, look out for; unexpected changes in air or water temperature. Fast-moving currents, waves and rapids, even in shallow water.

Hazards, such as dams, underwater obstacles, or rocks or debris moving on the surface or along the bottom of the water.

Aquatic life, such as vegetation that could entangle feet or animals that live in, on or around the water.

Sudden drop-offs that change water depth.

Other people's activities in the same waters, such as boating.

Know the abilities of those going with you, including swimming abilities and level of supervision required. Be sure to provide appropriate supervision.

Practice Water Safety.

Ensure that everyone in your family learns to swim well by enrolling them in age-appropriate learn-to-swim courses.

Swim only in areas that are designated for swimming with buoys and ropes and are supervised by lifeguards. Keep children under constant active supervision and remain free from distractions. Ensure that inexperienced swimmers stay within arm's reach.

Have weak swimmers wear approved life jackets whenever they are in, on or around water.

Always swim with a buddy.

Always enter unknown or shallow water cautiously, feet first.

Dive only in water clearly marked as safe for diving.

Do not use alcohol and/or drugs before or while swimming, diving or supervising swimmers.

If Someone Is in Trouble in the Water:

Reach out to the person using any available object that will extend your reach, such as a pole, an oar, a tree branch, a belt or a towel. Brace yourself to keep from losing your balance.

Throw anything that will provide the victim support, such as a foam cooler or inner tube. A floating object with a line attached is best so you can pull the person to safety.

If the water is shallow and calm, put on a life jacket, wade into the water and reach toward the person with a pole, branch, life jacket or other object.

Respectfully,

**Steve W Peay
Investigations Sergeant**