



# Chelan County Sheriff's Office

**Brian Burnett, Sheriff**

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone: (509) 667-6851 ★ Fax: (509) 667-6860

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sergeant Kent Sisson

Incident #: 15c07806 - **Update: Drowning**

**Columbia River - Wenatchee**

Phone: 509-667-6863

Date: 07/18/2015 12:15pm

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us>

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## UPDATE:

A body - believed to be that of 45 year old Jorge Anaya Rodriguez - was located Friday evening (July 17<sup>th</sup>) in the Columbia River near Wenatchee. Friends and family members of Rodriguez called RIVERCOM dispatch at 8:51pm to advise they had located the body in the river just south of the Apple Yard area which is south of the George Sellar Bridge. The body was retrieved from the river by 9:25pm and is with the Chelan County Coroner's Office. The family of Rodriguez had been doing regular checks of the river by boat since he went missing on the afternoon of 07/11/2015 after jumping into the water from a boat to go swimming. The Chelan County Sheriff's Office spent several days last week looking for Rodriguez's body using a boat, helicopter, underwater camera system, and rescue swimmers. Rodriguez had last been seen struggling in the water just south of the Confluence Wildlife Reserve.

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## ORIGINAL RELEASE:

Sheriff Brian Burnett reports a 45 year old male is presumed drowned in the Columbia River Saturday afternoon near Wenatchee. Sheriff's deputies, fire fighters, park rangers, and citizens responded when the 911 call was received at the RIVERCOM dispatch center at 3:27pm. The caller was a person on a boat advising a male adult was in the river and could not swim. Initial reports from family members of the victim at Confluence State Park directed responders to a location north of the Odabashian Bridge. That information was deemed incorrect, and the

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Undersheriff

★ **Jason Mathews** ★  
Chief of Special Operations

**Dave Helvey**  
Chief of Patrol

★ **Valerie Karnes** ★  
Chief Civil Deputy

★ **Jan Br...** ★  
Executive



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location changed to the middle of the Columbia River east of the Confluence Wildlife Reserve.

Jorge Anaya Rodriguez of Wenatchee had been in the boat with friends and family when he told them he was going to take a swim in the river. Rodriguez removed his shirt and personal floatation device prior to jumping into the water. Wearing only pair of long pants, Rodriguez began asking for help shortly after entering the water. He disappeared below the water's surface before a rope could be thrown out to him. One of the subjects in the boat jumped into the river attempting to locate Rodriguez, but was unsuccessful.

A Chelan County Sheriff's Office marine vessel staffed with deputies and firefighters responded to the area of the river where Rodriguez was last seen. Private vessels, volunteers, and EMS units assisted in searching the river and shoreline. The search of the river continued for over three hours, but Rodriguez has not been located.

Inquiries concerning this email may be directed to Sergeant Kent Sisson at the Chelan County Sheriff's Office – (509)667-6863.

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