



SHERIFF TROY DUNN
RICE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 8, 2016

Contact Information: Troy D. Dunn, Sheriff
Tel.: 507-334-4391

- WATER RESCUE -

Date/time reported: August 6, 2019 @ 6:08 PM

Location of Incident: 12000 block Eaton Ave., Bridgewater Township

Victims/Occupants: Nicole Mars, 45 Cottage Grove
Kaleb Mars, 23, Newport

On the above date/time, Rice County deputies and water patrol officers, Northfield Fire/Rescue and Northfield Ambulance were dispatched to a report of stranded people on the Cannon River south of Dundas. A group of people entered the river near Wilderness Park with the intention of riding inner tubes down the river. They entered an area that was almost completely covered by downed trees and two of the tubes deflated when they floated into the trees. Nicole and Caleb Mars were able to swim to shore after being submerged for a short period of time. They were rescued by Rice County Water Patrol staff and a DNR officer using the county's Pro-Drive boat. They were transported back to Wilderness Park with no apparent injuries. No parties in the group were wearing personal flotation devices at the time of the incident.

Some of these areas are not accessible by land and made it very difficult to locate these victims. At least one firefighter was treated at the scene from injuries sustained in the search. His injuries are believed to be non-life threatening. Sheriff Dunn stated "I have been asked numerous times if people can use the river for recreational purposes. My answer has been consistent. I don't recommend people using river for tubing due to numerous trees down in the river. I caution people with canoes and kayaks as well to think twice about using the river at this time due to the high water and treacherous conditions due to trees blocking the river. People are not only putting their own lives at risk but the lives of our first responders. Some of these areas are not able to navigate easily and it's not worth risking your life. These people are very lucky to have survived this incident!"

MN DNR and Dundas Police also assisted with this call.