

Sheriff: No sign of potential second drowning victim in Blount County, search called off

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Authorities have called off the search for a potential second drowning victim a day after one man died in the swollen waters of Peery's Mill Dam in Blount County.



Searches by helicopter and by kayak for several miles downstream found no sign of another victim, Blount County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Marian O'Briant said Friday.

Wednesday night, emergency personnel pulled one victim from the popular swimming hole off East Lamar Alexander Parkway in the Walland area. He's been identified as 33-year-old Ty Christopher Berry, of Maryville.

First responders attempted to revive Berry by CPR. He was taken by ambulance to Blount Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A search for a second potential victim was launched after a witness told authorities he saw two men go into the water, which was swollen and turbulent from recent rains.

During the search, deputies also deployed a small drone equipped with infrared cameras.

"Right now we have exhausted our resources as far as finding someone else," O'Briant said. "We urge the public to call us and let us know if they have any information that there could possibly be another person who was with Ty Berry late yesterday afternoon or early evening."

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Blount County dispatch at 865-983-3620.

Authorities are reminding the public that swimming near a low-head dam such as Peery's Mill is dangerous any time of the year, but it's especially treacherous when water levels are up.

In June 2017, Anna Last, 29, drowned at a low-head dam on the Nolichucky River. She was rafting with her children and friends on a day when the waters were running nearly double the normal flow. She died saving two of her sons.