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Rescuer dies during search for missing kayaker

Boat overturns on Big Wills Creek

WVTM13

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**Fred Davenport**   

Reporter

GADSDEN, Ala. — A rescue worker died and three others were hurt when a pair of rescue boats capsized in Big Wills Creek during a search for a missing kayaker.

Etowah County officials said Vicky Ryan was pronounced dead Saturday night at Riverview Medical Center in Gadsden.

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The two rescue boats overturned in a creek along Brooke Avenue near Interstate 759 on Saturday.

Authorities said strong currents led to the accident, and the search was called off.

Investigators said the missing kayaker was attempting to go over a dam.

One member of the rescue squad described Ryan as a nice person who was passionate about her job.

"She was one that would always show up to the scene if there is a scene to be shown up on, she was there, a real nice lady," Wayne Garmon said.

First responders did not put any boats in the water to search for the missing kayaker. The search was done above ground.

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