

06-01-2017 Anderson Co SC- Devin Hodges LEO – Boat Accident – Training

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REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/23263-deputy-sheriff-devin-hodges>

**Bio & Incident Details****Age:** 30**Tour:** 8 years**Badge #** Not available**Cause:** Boating accident**Deputy Sheriff****Devin Hodges****Anderson County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina****End of Watch: Thursday, June 1, 2017**

Deputy Sheriff Devin Hodges was killed in a boating accident while participating in a joint marine patrol training exercise with the Army Corps of Engineers at Singing Pines Recreation Area in Starr, South Carolina.

He and two other occupants of the boat were ejected from it during the training at approximately 9:30 am. He was then struck by the propeller of the empty boat, which had come back around after everyone had been ejected.

Deputy Hodges was pulled from the water and transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries one hour later.

Deputy Hodges had served with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office for six months and had served in law enforcement for eight years. He had previously served with the Lander University Department of Public Safety, Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, and the Calhoun Falls Police Department. He is survived by his wife and children.

Anderson Co. deputy dies during training exercise

<http://wspa.com/2017/06/01/man-injured-in-fall-from-boat-at-lake-hartwell/>

June 1, 2017 **WSPA Staff**

ANDERSON Co., S.C. (WSPA)
– The S.C. Department of Natural Resources is investigating the death of a sheriff's deputy at Lake Hartwell.

Emergency rescuers responded to a possible drowning at Singing Pines Campground in Starr on Thursday morning.



The Anderson County Sheriff's Office released a photo of fallen Deputy Devin Hodges on marine patrol. He joined in the department in January. Please keep his wife and children in your prayers.

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/35565774/coroner-investigating-death-of-anderson-co-sheriffs-office-employee>

Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman said an employee with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office fell out of a boat and struck his head on a propeller.

SCDNR confirmed that the man is a deputy.

The officer was taken to AnMed Medical Health Center where he died.

He was participating in a joint training exercise between the Army Corps of Engineers and the sheriff's office, according to DNR.

There were two boats—one for the sheriff's office and one for the corps.

All three people who were on the sheriff's boat were thrown, DNR says.

One deputy died and two others were taken to the hospital.

Everyone was wearing life jackets at the time of the accident.

The boat is still in the water and will be towed within the next hour.

7 News has reached out to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office for more information.

They sent out the following statement:



"The Anderson County Sheriff's Office is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and family member in an incident that occurred early this morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with our deputy and his family during this difficult time. We ask that you please allow us this time to grieve and to keep us in your prayers."

This is a developing story.

Anderson County Deputy Dies After Boating Accident

<http://www.wltx.com/news/nation/anderson-county-deputy-dies-after-boating-accident/444880957>

June 01, 2017 Nikie Mayo ,The Independent Mail , wltx

A 30-year-old deputy from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office died this morning after being involved in a boating accident at Singing Pines Campground in Starr.

Capt. Robert McCullough of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources said sheriff's deputies and representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were doing training exercises on Lake Hartwell early Thursday when the accident occurred.

"It appears that three people were ejected from a boat and that the boat came back around and the propeller struck one of the people



(Photo: Ken Ruinard/Independent Mail)

who had been ejected," he said.

McCullough said the people ejected included at least one Anderson County deputy and at least one person from the Corps of Engineers. He said he was not sure about the agency affiliation of the third person.

Deputy Anderson County Coroner Charlie Boseman said the sheriff's deputy was pronounced dead in a hospital emergency room. Coroner Greg Shore confirmed the deputy's age and said he died at 10:37 a.m. at AnMed Health Medical Center.

The officer's identity has not been disclosed because family members are still being notified of the accident.

The state Department of Natural Resources is investigating the incident because it occurred on a body of water. Two of the agency's investigators are headed to Anderson County now.

County Administrator Rusty Burns said county flags at government buildings are being lowered to half-staff in honor of the deputy. When Anderson County Council members got word of the accident during a budget workshop, they stopped and had a moment of silence for the deputy and his family.

"Our hearts and love and prayers go out to his family," Burns said. "We will be wrapping our arms around this family and the Sheriff's Office family. We stand ready to do anything we can."

Billy Birdwell, a spokesman for the Corps of Engineers, said his agency is still working to gather information on what happened.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office released a prepared statement around 1:30 p.m.

"The Anderson County Sheriff's Office is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and family member in an incident that occurred early this morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with our deputy and his family during this difficult time. We ask that you please allow us this time to grieve and to keep us in your prayers."

The last Anderson County deputy to die in the line of duty was James Alex Burdette.

Burdette had finished his shift when he came across a stranded vehicle in March 2005. He was struck while directing traffic and died of his injuries.

Former Anderson County Sheriff David Crenshaw, who worked as a firefighter after he left law enforcement, died while responding to a car crash in January 2012.

Crenshaw was working with the Pendleton Fire Department when he collapsed on a pump panel and died of a heart attack.

SC deputy dies in boating accident during training

[HTTP://WWW.THESTATE.COM/NEWS/STATE/SOUTH-CAROLINA/ARTICLE153802974.HTML](http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article153802974.html)

BY NIKIE MAYO, (Anderson) Independent Mail

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Capt. Robert McCullough of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources said sheriff's deputies and representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were doing training exercises on Lake Hartwell early Thursday when the accident occurred.



An Anderson County deputy drowned in Lake Hartwell after a boating accident near Singing Pines Recreation Area Thursday. **Ken Ruinard / (Anderson) Independent Mail**



An Anderson County Sheriff's Office employee drowned at Lake Hartwell after a boating accident near Singing Pines Recreation Area in Anderson County Thursday. Ken Ruinard / (Anderson) Independent Mail

"It appears that three people were ejected from a boat and that the boat came back around and the propeller struck one of the people who had been ejected," he said.

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The state Department of Natural Resources is investigating the incident because it occurred on a body of water. Two of the agency's investigators are headed to Anderson County now.

County Administrator Rusty Burns said county flags at government buildings are being lowered to half-staff in honor of the deputy. When Anderson County Council members got word of the accident during a budget workshop, they stopped and had a moment of silence for the deputy and his family.

"Our hearts and love and prayers go out to his family," Burns said. "We will be wrapping our arms around this family and the Sheriff's Office family. We stand ready to do anything we can."

Billy Birdwell, a spokesman for the Corps of Engineers, said his agency is still working to gather information on what happened.

DNR: Anderson Co. deputy killed in boat training accident

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/35565774/coroner-investigating-death-of-anderson-co-sheriffs-office-employee>

Jun 01, 2017

The Anderson County coroner said an Anderson County sheriff's deputy died after an incident on Lake Hartwell Thursday morning.

Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said a boating accident occurred around 9:30 a.m. at the Singing Pines Campground in Starr. The campground is located off Highway 29 along Lake Hartwell.



Deadly boat accident under investigation

The deputy, a 30-year-old male, was taken by ambulance to AnMed hospital. Shore said the victim died just after 10:30 a.m. while at the hospital.

PHOTOS: [Deadly boating accident under investigation](#)

The SC Department of Natural Resources is investigating the incident but Shore said an autopsy was ordered to assist in determining a cause of death.

DNR First Sgt. Rhett Barwick said the accident occurred during a joint training session between the

Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Barwick said three occupants, two deputies and a corps operator, were on each of the 19-foot Pioneer boats. When the incident occurred, the trio was thrown off the Anderson County Sheriff's Office boat.



TRAGIC BOATING ACCIDENT
Authorities on scene of boating incident on Lake Hartwell which claimed the life of an Anderson County Sheriff's Office employee

A deputy was gravely wounded in the incident, Barwick said. No one else was injured but two were transported to the hospital due to shock, according to Barwick.

All of those involved in the training were wearing life jackets.

The investigation is in its early stages and Barwick said DNR is looking at many factors including sonar, speed, motor position and more.

"It could be any law enforcement officer," Barwick said. "It just takes a second in a boat."

The coroner said Sheriff Chad McBride would release the deputy's name after family members had been notified.

A woman who identified herself as a relative of the deputy spoke to FOX Carolina outside AnMed hospital.

"He was totally a family person, very dedicated to his job," she said. "He was a good police officer. He was all about his family and his career."

A spokesperson for the sheriff's office issued the following statement on the incident:

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and family member in an incident that occurred early this morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with our deputy and his family during this difficult time. We ask that you please allow us this time to grieve and to keep us in your prayers.

The Sheriff will be providing a statement later today.

Anderson County deputy dies after boating accident

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2017/06/01/anderson-county-deputy-dies-after-boating-accident/361776001/>

June 1, 2017 Nikie Mayo , nikie.mayo@independentmail.com

A 30-year-old deputy from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office died Thursday after being struck by a boat propeller during a training exercise at Singing Pines Recreation Area in Starr.

Capt. Robert McCullough of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources said sheriff's deputies and representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were training together on Lake Hartwell when the deputy was injured about 9:30 a.m.

"It appears that three people were ejected from a boat and that the empty boat came back around and the propeller struck one of the people who had been ejected," he said.

McCullough said the people ejected included at least one Anderson County deputy and at least one person from the Corps of Engineers. He said he was not sure about the agency affiliation of the third person.

Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore confirmed the deputy's age and said he died at 10:37 a.m. in the emergency room of AnMed Health Medical Center.



Sgt. Rhett Barwick of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources walks to his vehicle following an Anderson County Sheriff Office deputy accidental death in Lake Hartwell near Singing Pines Recreation Area in Anderson County on Thursday. (Photo: Ken Ruinard/Independent Mail)

The officer's identity has not been disclosed because family members are still being notified of the accident.

The two others in the boat were not physically injured, but were taken to the hospital to be treated for shock, according to Rhett Barwick of the state Department of Natural Resources.

Barwick said all three people were involved in a "joint patrol-type boat activity" when they were ejected. The state Department of Natural Resources is investigating the incident because it occurred on a body of water.

Two of the agency's investigators traveled to Anderson County to lead the probe.

County flags at government buildings have been lowered to half-staff in honor of the deputy. When Anderson County Council members got word of the accident during a budget workshop Thursday morning, they stopped and prayed for the deputy and his family.

"Our hearts and love and prayers go out to his family," Anderson County Administrator Rusty Burns said. "We will be wrapping our arms around this family and the Sheriff's Office family. We stand ready to do anything we can."

Shore said an autopsy will be performed on the deputy Friday morning.

Billy Birdwell, a spokesman for the Corps of Engineers, said his agency is still working to gather information on what happened.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office released a prepared statement around 1:30 p.m.



An Anderson County Sheriff Office employee drowned in Lake Hartwell after a boating accident near Singing Pines Recreation Area in Anderson County on Thursday.

(Photo: Ken Ruinard/Independent Mail)



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Many deputies gathered at the hospital and others spent time at Singing Pines, a recreation area that includes a campground and boat ramp.

The last Anderson County deputy to die in the line of duty was James Alex Burdette.

Burdette had finished his shift when he came across a stranded vehicle in March 2005. He was struck while directing traffic and died of his injuries.

Former Anderson County Sheriff David Crenshaw, who worked as a firefighter after he left law enforcement, died while responding to a car crash in January 2012.

Crenshaw was working with the Pendleton Fire Department when he collapsed on a pump panel and died of a heart attack.

Deputy dies after falling out of boat, getting hit by propeller during training exercise, DNR says

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/man-thrown-from-boat-fatally-injured-by-propeller-coroner-says/9961137>

Jun 1, 2017



Accident happened on Lake Hartwell

ANDERSON COUNTY, S.C. —

An Anderson County Sheriff's Office deputy who was hit by a boat during a training exercise on Lake Hartwell Thursday morning died from his injuries, the coroner said.

Sheriff Chad McBride said the deputy, 30-year-old Devin Hodges, was a favorite of everyone in the department.

Hodges was "a big guy, with a big personality and a big heart -- and it is a big loss," McBride said.

Hodges and two other people from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were on Lake Hartwell when they fell out of the boat, according to Department of Natural Resources Capt. Robert McCullough.

Investigators have not yet said what caused them to fall from the boat.

The driverless boat then circled back and struck Hodges, McCullough said.



A medical helicopter and ambulance were called just after 9:30 a.m. to a boat ramp in the Singing Pines recreation area on Lake Hartwell.

Dispatchers said the deputy was pulled from the water at about 9:45 a.m. and was treated by emergency management services.

Anderson County Chief Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman said Hodges died in the emergency room.

"It started around 9 o'clock, and it was around 9:30 a.m. when the 911 calls started. The deputy was transported to AnMed," First Sgt. Rhett Barwick said. "There were no other injuries. They transported two other ones to the hospital -- no injuries. Basically, (they were in) shock."

Barwick said in his 17 years with DNR, he does not recall a time when a law enforcement officer has died during a training exercise on the water.

He said first responders did not know the victim was a law enforcement officer until they were close to the scene.

Barwick said it is still very early in the investigation, which will take days to complete.

"Everybody had their life jackets on. They were deployed. The life jackets came up properly," Barwick said.

The sheriff spoke to reporters Thursday afternoon.

"We lost a brother today who was a great officer," McBride said.

He described Hodges as an "all-star." He said Hodges started with the Sheriff's Office in January, and he had already made a big impression.

Hodges was a great officer and a great guy, McBride said.



WYFF News 4

"He will be greatly missed," McBride said. "There will be no replacing him."

McBride said Hodges was one of several uniformed deputies who share marine duty on the lakes that are such a big part of life in Anderson County. He said Hodges had just worked marine duty over the Memorial Day weekend, and that Hodges "lost his life in the line of duty, training to save lives."

The sheriff said the loss is especially hard because Hodges was a family man, and leaves behind a wife and children.

"I know he's a godly man, and I know he's in heaven right now," McBride said.

"That's about the only peace right now." (The Associated Press contributed to this report)

Deputy Devin Hodges killed by boat propeller during training exercises on Lake Hartwell in SC

<http://www.propellersafety.com/13033/propeller-accident-report/deputy-devin-hodges-killed-by-boat-propeller/>

June 2, 2017 by [GARY](#)

Anderson County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) in South Carolina was conducting on water training exercises in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on Lake Hartwell on Thursday 1 July 2017. ACSO Deputy Devin Hodges and another ACSO person were on a USACE boat thought to have been being operated by a USACE participant in the training exercise.

An accident investigation is underway. For yet to be determined or released reasons, all three people on board were ejected from the 19 foot Pioneer patrol boat. The boat unmanned circled in the Circle of Death and Officer Devin Hodges was fatally struck by the propeller.

Some reports say he was struck in the head.

No mention has been found of efforts to stop the circling boat or if it stopped on its own.

The accident happened about 9:30 am. Everybody was wearing life jackets. It sounds like they were probably inflatables, and that they all inflated.

Officer Devin was transported by ground to Am Med as were the other two in the vessel. Devin Hodges was dead on arrival and the other two on board were transported to the same facility and treated for shock.



Deputy Devin Hodges

Officer Devin previously worked several other police type jobs in the region and just came to ACSO in January. He was very well liked and was said to have received many attaboys.

Devin Hodges leaves behind a wife and young children.

As to what might have happened, it is totally speculation at this moment. We will wait for some direction from the investigation before commenting further beyond recognizing it sounds like the kill switch may have played some role in the accident.

I also note we have seen many Circle of Death accidents in which wearing a life jacket prevented a person in the water from diving below an on coming boat. While wearing a life jacket is a great thing to do, if you are ejected and the unmanned boat is circling some have suggested taking it off your life jacket / PFD as quickly as possible, then hanging on to it. This method provides you the opportunity to dive below the oncoming boat if you need to.

Cause of death for deputy killed in training exercise released

<http://wspa.com/2017/06/02/cause-of-death-for-deputy-killed-in-training-exercise-released/>

June 2, 2017 WSPA Staff

ANDERSON CO., SC (WSPA) – According to the Anderson County Coroner, deputy Devin Hodges drowned in a boating accident during training on Lake Hartwell, Thursday morning.

According to coroner Greg Shore, the Anderson County sheriff's deputy's life jacket was tangled in the boat's propeller and he was pinned under the boat. The coroner says Hodges only had bruises on his chest and arms.



The accident happened near the Singing Pines Campground in Starr.

Hodges fell from a boat during a joint training exercise involving the Army Corps of Engineers and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

All three people on the Sheriff's office's boat were thrown off in the accident, according to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

The two others were taken to the hospital.

Anderson County Deputy Drowned

<http://www.1063word.com/articles/anderson-county-deputy-drowned>

JUNE 02, 2017 [ED JENSON](#)

Vest and clothing got tangled

The Anderson county coronor's office said today that 30-year-old Anderson county deputy Devin Hodges drowned because his vest and clothing got caught in the propeller of the boat.

The accident happened yesterday morning during a training exercise on Lake Hartwell.

Hodges along with two other people were on the boat when they went overboard.

Fallen deputy had his life jacket caught on boat propeller

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2017/06/02/fund-established-family-fallen-anderson-co-deputy-devin-hodges/364991001/>

June 2, 2017 Nikie Mayo, nikie.mayo@independentmail.com

When Devin Hodges, an Anderson County Sheriff's Office deputy, went overboard into Lake Hartwell, his life jacket got caught on a boat propeller, entangling him and forcing him underwater until he was pinned to the bottom of the boat, a coroner said Friday.

Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said Hodges, 30, died an accidental death caused by drowning.

Hodges' colleagues gave him CPR once they pulled his body from the lake Thursday, but he was pronounced dead less than hour later at AnMed Health Medical Center.

"Once he went underwater, he wasn't able to come up," Shore said Friday. "It is just tragic."

Hodges was participating in a training exercise that included other Anderson County deputies and representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers when he and two others were ejected from a boat.

The other two people were uninjured.

By Friday, thousands had reached out to the Sheriff's Office to offer their condolences. Some talked about the passionate family man they knew.

Hodges wanted to be a law enforcement officer from the time he was a little boy.

One of his former supervisors, Lander University Police Chief Eddie Briggs, said Friday that history will reflect Hodges died doing what he was born to do.

When Hodges was still too young to be an officer, the public-safety bug had already bitten him so hard that he found a job he could do before he turned 21.

"You can be a dispatcher sooner, so he did that first," Briggs said. "But law enforcement was his lifelong goal."

He reached that goal by 2009, and worked for several Upstate agencies before his death.

Hodges worked two years for Lander University Public Safety before coming to Anderson in January.

"We love him still," Briggs said, his voice breaking. "He will always be part of our family."

Briggs described Hodges as an outgoing, funny guy who worked well with students and liked an occasional prank.

"He'd turn the nameplate on my office upside down sometimes," Briggs said. "And there were many times that he'd leave the office, and no matter what time of year it was, he'd bellow 'Merry Christmas' to whoever could hear."



Photo: Anderson County Sheriff's Office

But most of all, what shone through was Hodges' passion for his work and commitment to his family, Briggs said.

"He could ask a student, in a joking way, 'Why did you do something stupid' and he could get information that other officers might have to work harder to get," Briggs said. "And he chose to work late shifts so that he would have the most time possible with his family."

Briggs said Hodges often worked second jobs to help make ends meet so that his wife could stay home with their four young children, two of whom have special needs.

"He was absolutely dedicated as a father," Briggs said. "And he was a dedicated officer, too. We lost one of the good guys."

Hodges, 30, a marine patrol and road patrol officer, died Thursday morning about an hour after he was critically injured. He and two other people were ejected from a

boat at Singing Pines Recreation Area in Starr, and Hodges was hit by the propeller as the empty boat circled back to where he was in the water.

The others, an Anderson County deputy and a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers, were not injured, but were treated for shock.

The case remains under investigation by the state Department of Natural Resources, the agency that handles cases involving deaths on waters throughout the state. Investigators are still interviewing witnesses, but details about what happened are still being pieced together.

Capt. Robert McCullough said Friday that the early investigation indicates that Hodges' boat did not hit anything in the water before he and others were ejected.

"They were doing some type of maneuver, but I don't know the nature of the maneuver," he said.

McCullough said the three were on a 19-foot Pioneer boat that the Sheriff's Office uses for marine patrols. One other Sheriff's Office boat was also present, he said.

The message from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office on Friday morning was a simple one.

"Thank you Anderson County and our friends across the State of SC for your support. Deputy Hodges will be missed. #BRAVO32"

The Sheriff's Office tweeted the message shortly after 10 a.m. Friday.

The agency had received more than 150,000 messages of condolence as of early Friday morning, said Steve Combs, a Sheriff's Office spokesman. The messages have come from all over the United States, including California and Hawaii, and some have been from as far away as Western Europe, he said.

A [GoFundMe](#) page has been set up for people to donate to a fund that will support Hodges' wife Krystal and their young children. Combs said officials are also working to set up the Devin Hodges Memorial Fund at Park Sterling Bank, which has offices in Anderson and branches throughout the Upstate.

Combs said 100 percent of the money donated to the bank fund would go to Hodges' family. He said the memorial fund would be especially helpful because two of Hodges' children have special needs.

Funeral arrangements for Hodges have not yet been made public. When they are available, the *Independent Mail* will provide updates.

Flags are at half-staff at government buildings and churches throughout Anderson County.

"Devin was out there training so that he could save other people's lives," Sheriff Chad McBride said Thursday. "Now our hearts hurt for him and his family."

The last Anderson County deputy to die in the line of duty was James Alex Burdette.

Burdette had finished his shift when he came across a stranded vehicle in March 2005. He was struck while directing traffic and died of his injuries.

Former Anderson County Sheriff David Crenshaw, who worked as a firefighter after he left law enforcement, died while responding to a car crash in January 2012.

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