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NEWS FROM THE ST. CHARLES FIRE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Body of Missing Kayaker Recovered from Fox River Today After Multi-Agency Search

ST. CHARLES, ILL. (DATE) – The body of a kayaker who had been missing in the Fox River since Tuesday evening was recovered this morning, July 31, after a civilian called 911 at 5:58 a.m. The body of a male was located in the river near the Great Western Trail Bridge and has been positively identified as the missing kayaker.

The St. Charles Fire Department has concluded the search and recovery operation and the ongoing investigation into the incident continues by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police, who hold jurisdiction over the Fox River, and the Kane County Coroner's Office.

The exhaustive, multi-agency search spanned nearly 20 hours over the course of two days and involved extensive resources, including side and sector scan sonar technology, specialized search-and-rescue canines, dive teams, underwater rovers, and the coordinated efforts of over two dozen supporting fire departments and multiple government agencies.

"I want to thank the significant number of fire departments, our police and Emergency Management Agency, the Conservation Police, the Kane County Sheriff's office, the Kane County Office of Emergency Management, and volunteer groups for their ongoing support during this sustained search and recovery effort," said St. Charles Fire Chief Jeremy Mauthe. "Their expertise, specialized equipment, and dedication were vital to this operation."

"This was a complex operation led by St. Charles Fire Chief Jeremy Mauthe and the St. Charles Fire Department," said Mayor Clint Hull. "I appreciate their professionalism and the seamless inter-agency cooperation provided by first responder agencies across the region. We extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and all who have been affected by this tragic incident."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Law Enforcement at 217-782-6431.

Media inquires can be directed to Illinois Department of Natural Resources Public Information Officer Jayette Bolinski at 217-785-3953 or jayette.bolinski@illinois.gov.

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Service, Tradition, Community: The St. Charles Strategic Plan

About the St. Charles Fire Department

The St. Charles Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, emergency management, fire inspection and public education services to the St. Charles, Illinois, community. The Department earned a Class 1 PPC ISO rating and is fully accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. A full-time Department of the City of St. Charles, the St. Charles Fire Department serves the 33,000 residents and nearly 2,000 businesses from three stations within the City. The City of St. Charles is conveniently located 35 miles west of Chicago, in Kane and northwestern DuPage Counties. The City is guided by the three driving principles in its Mission: Service. Tradition. Community. Together, these principles create a thriving environment for people who live or visit here, and for businesses to prosper. More at www.stcharlesil.gov, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).