

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clinton Lake Boating Accident

During the evening hours of July 7, 2005, six men were fishing on a pontoon boat south of the Marina on Clinton Lake. The boat was anchored at the time. Traveling south along the lake was a leisure boat that struck the front of the pontoon, traveling across the deck of the pontoon. 911 was notified by an occupant on the pontoon and informed that two injuries were reported and a possible fatality. The owner/operator of the pontoon, Verlyn "Pete" Gum, of Farmer City, IL. was able to navigate back to the Marina where he was met by DNR Officers along with Clinton and Monticello ambulances. The occupants of the pontoon were Pete Gum, Gene Tharp, Tom Deyoung, Loren Evans, Billy Babb and Danny Williams.

Mr. Evans, Babb and Williams were transferred from the Marina to Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana for treatment of injuries. Pete Gum was treated at the Marina and released. Robert Eugene Tharp, 82, of Farmer City was pronounced dead at the Clinton Marina at 10:25 pm.

DNR Officers located the leisure boat on the lake and two of the persons were transferred to BroMenn Regional Medical Center for treatment of their injuries. The third was interviewed by DNR as to the mishap. No identities of the second boat's occupants have been released at this time.