



JOHNNY BURKS
SHERIFF, CORYELL COUNTY

510 Leon Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528
(254) 865-7201



PRESS RELEASE

05/25/2007

Ref: Drowning

May 24, 2007 the southern part of Coryell County experienced flooding rains.

Sheriff's Deputies and Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers responded to numerous calls of multiple vehicle traffic accidents along US Highway 190 between Copperas Cove and Central Texas College. At 5:02 PM emergency personnel responded to a call on Highway 190. The reporting party stated that their vehicle had been struck by lightning and power lines were lying on their vehicle. Upon arriving at the scene Deputies observed high voltage lines lying across both lanes of US Highway 190. Traffic was stopped until Power Company personnel could shut off the power to the downed lines. All occupants of the vehicle were safely removed. During the time Highway 190 was shut down numerous people tried to cross medians and became stuck. Because of the heavy rains numerous people had to be rescued from these stranded vehicles because of rising flood waters.

Later in the evening at approximately 9:00 pm Deputies reported a mini-van washing off FM 3046 approximately ½ mile off South Highway 116. Deputies attempted to make their way to the mini-van but high swift moving water at the low water crossing prevented them from reaching the van. Eventually Cove FD personnel were able to make their way to the van, but there were no occupants inside. At approximately 10:30 pm the body of an elderly female was recovered from the flood waters approximately ¾ miles from the low water crossing. Deputies along with Cove FD, EMS, Highway Patrol and Coryell County Citizens Emergency Response Team continued search efforts. At 7:15 AM, May 25, 2007 the body of an elderly male was recovered approximately 30 yards from the location the female was recovered. Both were pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Bill Price. At the time of this press release the names of the deceased are being withheld pending notification of relatives.

Sheriff Johnny Burks said that he wants to commend all of the emergency responders that responded to the scene, they gave their all in an effort to rescue the occupants of the mini-van, but unfortunately we were not successful. The best practice is to never attempt to cross a roadway covered in water especially swift moving water. Wait until the water

recedes or turn around and go another way. It's always tragic when someone loses their life to an incident such as this.

Sheriff Johnny Burks
Coryell County