Water Rescue Resources in the Rivanna River Basin

September 20, 2012
Lake Monticello Water Rescue
Water Rescue Organizations

- Lake Monticello Water Rescue
- Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad
- Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Other departments in area are beginning to form teams or improve their capabilities
A little about us

- Lake Monticello Water Rescue Team
- All Volunteer, 45 members
- Swiftwater, Boats & Ropes, Ice and Dive
- Train twice a month
- Respond to calls across Central VA
- Friend us on Facebook!
Lake and River Cleanup
We play on the river too
Friend or...
Types of River Calls

- Stranded Paddlers
- Missing/Late Paddlers
- River portion of land based searches
- Vehicles in rivers or streams
- Law Enforcement Assistance
- Technical Rescue Assistance
Challenges to Response

- High Water Conditions
- Low Water Conditions
- Large or Unclear Search Areas
- Appropriate launch locations
- Potential Long Response Time
- Hypothermia
Inflatable DIB
Inflatable
Zodiac
Kayaks
Ropes too!
Dive 5
Characteristics of Swift Water

1) **Powerful**: As the speed increases, so does the power

2) **Relentless**: Once in the current, you cannot expect any reprieve

3) **Predictable**: To the trained rescuer that is. Water always acts the same, whether a bubbling brook or raging river
Foot Entrapment

Never stand in moving water above your knees.
Strainers

- Any object in the water that lets the water pass through but not a solid object
- Avoid at all costs
- Trees, guard rails, barbed wire fences, side of a car
Climb over Strainers
Undercuts

- Should be avoided at all costs when possible.
- Undercut – rock or ledge that has been washed out from water on the upper side.
- Can be very strong current
- Pin Hazard
Keep It Simple/Simple is Safe

- Talk
- Reach
- Throw
- Row
- Go
- Helo
Throw
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One way to go
Questions