

# Hwy 7/100

# Cold Water Rescue

The Challenges of a Multi Agency Response

# Objectives

- Understand the scene and the unique challenges as well as benefits it offered.
- The importance of resource management and deploying them correctly
- The aftermath. Managing the message, and the importance of responder mental health.

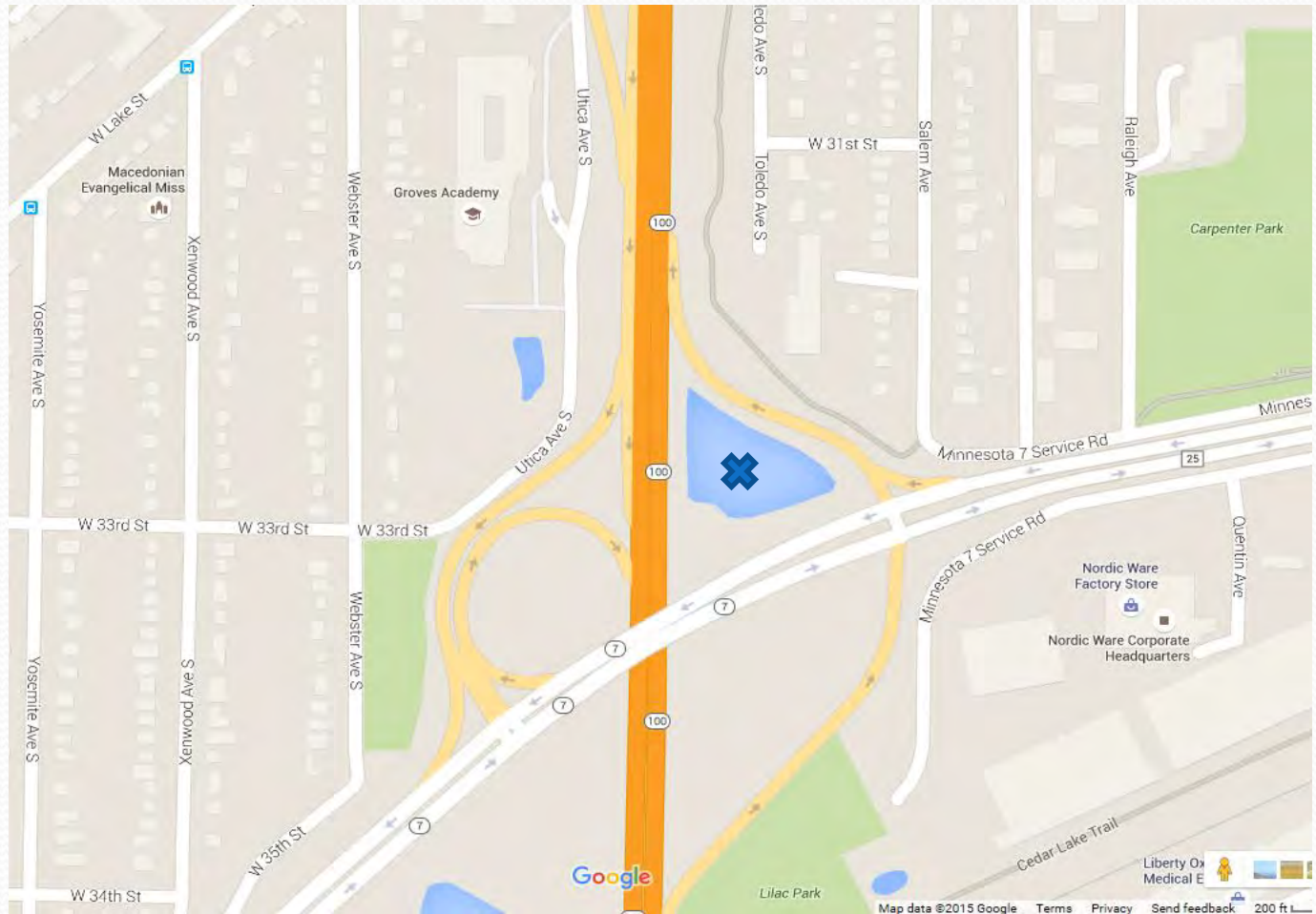
# Setting the Stage

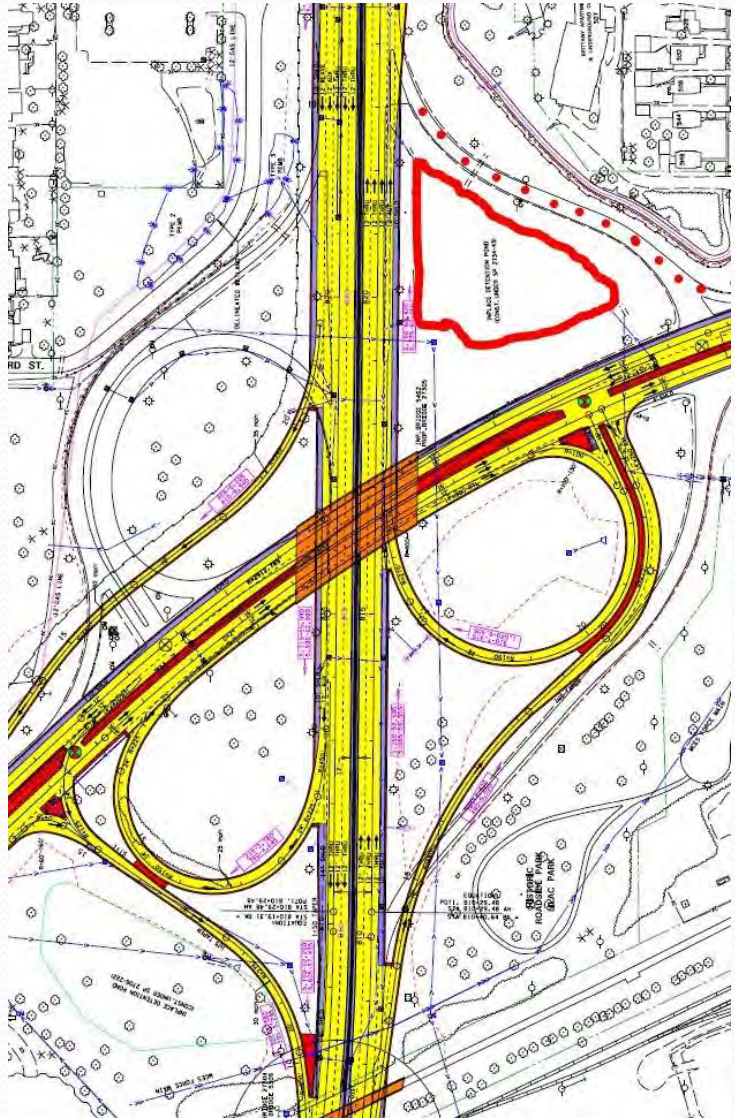
- Incident date: November 21, 2013
- Incident time: 0601
- Temperature 37.4 F
- One hour prior to sunrise and rush hour

# The Crash

- The Car lost control on the ramp from MN Hwy 7 West to MN Hwy 100 North.
- The car proceeded into the retention pond coming to rest near the center
- Pond Size 225' x 300'
- Water depth in the center was around 10 feet
- Water temperatures were extremely cold and no ice.
- Crash occurred without witnesses

# Map











# Timeline

- A call was received by St Louis Park 911 Dispatch at approximately 0610. Bystander from a distance made a call when he heard screams for help.
- 0613 SLP PD on scene
- 0615 SLP FD on scene
- 0620 first ALS unit on scene
- 0625 EMS Supervisor on Scene

Following these initial units numerous additional units arrived including Fire, Police, Patrol, Sheriffs, EMS

# SLP Police

- 2 Officers initially
- No water rescue equipment
- Made contact with woman and man standing in the middle of the water up to their waist.
- Determined they were standing on the vehicle and that there were still people inside.
- Made attempts to reach vehicle however cold water deterred their effort.
- Performed most of their duties standing in knee deep water

# Police Response Gear



Insulated jacket not waterproof

No protection for face and neck

Leather duty boots

Non insulated/not waterproof pants

# Water Rescue Suits

Avg. Donning Time 90 seconds

One size fits all design



Encapsulated Rubber Gloves

Waterproof outer shell  
with insulated liner

Encapsulated rubber boot





# SLP Fire

- Engine 1, Utility 1 and Engine 4-Total personnel 5
- Before the end of the event there would be 23 FD personnel involved in the event.
- Water rescue equipment is on each rig and U1 brought the Zodiac boat, water rope, additional cold water suits and PFD's
- Bulk of the work rested on the shoulders of the initial response crews.
- Physical exertion of swimming in suits

# The Rescue

- Suit Challenges
- Setting up rescue lines
- Advancing to the car location and determining orientation.
- Accessing interior of the vehicle in the dark without the use of hands or sight
- Quickly moving patients from water to shore.
- Initiating resuscitation once onshore using EMS and FD/PD staff
- Confusion on number of patients
- Returning for additional patients





# Extraction

- Within 12 minutes of the first arriving fire unit the first patient was removed from the vehicle at 0627
- Patient 2 was out at 0629
- Patient 3 was out at 0633

Picked up window punch tool

- Patient 4 was removed at 0636

Returned back to the vehicle for fifth victim

- Patient 5 removed at 0642



# Resource Intensive

- As quickly as fire staff arrived on scene they were deployed to waiting ambulance to assist with patient care.
- Each ambulance had two responders and 1 medic in the back.
- Multiple EMS units required early
- As resources were drawn to scene day to day city coverage needed to be dealt with.
- Staff required to pick up multiple staff now at HCMC

# Interventions

- Challenges of pediatric patients in a non responsive full arrest state
- Lucas Device
- Getting ambulance staffed so they could leave
- Keeping a traffic plan in place so that more ambulances could get in

# Potential Crime Scene

- Priorities
  - First aid/Rescue
  - Jurisdiction
  - Crime Scene
- Evidence Gathering
  - Physical Evidence
  - Interviews
  - Accident Reconstruction
  - 3 Law Enforcement Agencies presenting to:
- Hennepin County/City Attorney Review



# Unified Command

- Beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day on the job
- ICS transfers of command weren't practical until a Chief got on scene
- EMS and Fire were operating separately however in harmony. Day to day relationship aided in that.
- Law enforcement, fire and EMS finally unified at 0702







# Reflections

- It is Important to ramp up resources.
- Establish communications plan and patch ASAP
- Stay in your roles and focus on the assignment
- Get unified command established as soon as possible
- Maintain perimeter security
- Maintain a traffic plan for ingress and egress
- Transfer or transition command when appropriate

# Media

- If you do not have a PIO find one
- Control the rumor mill
- Protect the victims
- Protect the responders
- Protect the investigation
- Keep information flowing, do not allow media to fill in the blanks with their idea of what happened
- Be available



Amani Coleman-Guerrido, 5, left, and Alarious Coleman-Guerrido, 7, right. Alarious died after the crash.

# Returning to normal

- Preemptively update crews before messages become public
- Quickly correct inaccuracies
- Initiate PFA (psychological first aid) immediately
- Engage all responders including dispatch
- Set up a CISM event with trained professionals
- Follow up to ensure needs are met (EAP's)
- Prepare for numerous public reiterations of the events and your efforts.