

February 26, 2015

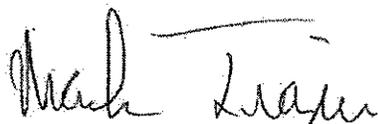
Michael Evanoff
Safety Officer
DNR Parks & Recreation Division

Dear Mr. Evanoff,

The National Weather Service mission is protection of life and property. On the Great Lakes, we accomplish this mission by issuing beach forecasts and beach hazards statements to alert beachgoers about dangerous swimming conditions during the summer swim season. We also collaborate with Sea Grant, the State Parks, and water safety task force groups across the Great Lakes to do research and outreach that raises knowledge and public awareness of dangerous currents and other beach hazards.

According to the National Weather Service Current Incident Database, a total of 144 fatalities and 307 rescues have been attributed to dangerous currents on the Great Lakes since 2002. Unfortunately, many of these victims were between the ages of 10 and 25. For each of the incidents in the database, a case review of the conditions and circumstances during the incident are documented using nearby observational equipment, police and news reports, and survivor or eyewitness accounts. A large number of these incidents occurred on beaches without lifeguards or publicly accessible beach rescue equipment. These beaches are sometimes in remote locations, which can make rescue particularly difficult. While waiting for emergency personnel to arrive, family members, friends, and Good Samaritans often end up drowning while trying to rescue the victim themselves because they don't use a lifejacket or other appropriate safety equipment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Frazier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Mark Frazier
National Weather Service
North Webster, Indiana