



Thursday, August 25, 2005

## 1 dead, 2 missing on the Ohio Boat, barge involved in river crash

By Luke Saladin  
Post staff reporter

One person was killed, another was injured and two people are missing after the boat they were on was struck by a tow of barges shortly after 3:30 a.m. today on the Ohio River near the Daniel Carter Beard Bridge.

The injured man was taken to St. Luke Hospital East in Fort Thomas, where he was treated for minor injuries and released, authorities said. His name was not released, but authorities said he was from Cincinnati.

The other three men on the 31-foot boat also were from Cincinnati, authorities said. The names of the three men were not available.

"The search (for the missing people) is on-going," said Joe Davis, chief of Campbell County Water Rescue, one of several agencies involved in the search-and-rescue operation.

"All we know at this point is that a barge struck a watercraft," he said.

There apparently was either an electrical or an engine problem on the boat, and the four men on board were in the bow trying to fix the problem when the crash occurred, Dayton police officer Bret Wiley said at a media briefing.

"They didn't see the barge coming," he said.

If it was an electrical problem, the boat's running lights would not have been operating and the tow boat pilot would not have seen the smaller craft, Wiley said.

Investigators believe that after the collision, the smaller boat was caught under the hull of one of the tow's lead barges and pushed upriver until it broke away near Dayton, Wiley said.

Search-and-rescue crews were using underwater cameras in their search for the missing occupants of the boat, and divers from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office were preparing to enter the water, Wiley said.

Investigators from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife were called to the scene because Kentucky owns the Ohio River, but the investigation was turned over to the Coast Guard, which has jurisdiction because the tow is owned by a commercial company, Wiley said.

The name of the barge company was not immediately available. It was not immediately known what type of cargo the barges were hauling.

The pilot was able to stop the barge about a mile upriver from the crash scene, and Coast Guard and Fish and Wildlife officials were interviewing the pilot and crew members, authorities said.

The pilot and crew will be tested for alcohol, a routine procedure whenever a tow is involved in an accident on the river, authorities said.

Search-and-rescue personnel from Kentucky set up an operations center at the River City Marina in Dayton. The Cincinnati Fire Department, which was helping in the search-and-rescue effort, set up an operations center on the Cincinnati side of the river.

### THE OHIO RIVER CAN BE A RISKY PLACE FOR BOATERS TO CRUISE

The Ohio River can be a dangerous place. Among serious boating accidents on the Ohio River:

On June 27, 2003, seven people were injured when their pleasure craft was run over by a 42-foot speedboat near Dayton. The owner of the speedboat, Glenn Colann, of Gahanna, Ohio, is serving a 10-year prison sentence for causing the collision on the river.

Two fishermen were killed July 15, 2000, when a tow of barges hit their 16-foot boat in the Ohio River during an excursion near Aurora, Ind.

Three people were killed and two others injured in a collision of two pleasure craft Aug. 16, 1999, near Bellevue. Brian Brunen of Cincinnati, the operator of one of the boats, was acquitted of three counts of manslaughter but convicted of drunken boating by a Campbell County jury following the collision.

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