



13-year-old Scottville girl in critical condition after being pulled from lake at Mears State Park

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By **Lisa Medendorp | The Muskegon Chronicle**

PENTWATER — A 13-year-old Scottville girl pulled unconscious from the rough waters of Lake Michigan at Charles Mears State Park was reported in critical condition Wednesday evening at a Grand Rapids Hospital, according to police.

Authorities were not releasing the victim's name pending notification of all family members.

Pentwater police were dispatched to the state park at 3:25 p.m. on a report of swimmers in trouble. Upon arrival, officers learned the girl had been pulled from the water at the South Pier of the Pentwater Channel. Officers immediately started cardiopulmonary resuscitation.



Kedra Stanley-Mills | Muskegon Chronicle

A crowd gathers to watch the rescue of a 13-year-old girl who was pulled from Lake Michigan at Charles Mears State Park Wednesday. The girl was in critical condition at a Grand Rapids hospital.

Oceana County Sheriff's Lt. Craig Mast, whose department also responded to the scene, said the victim "had a pulse" as she was taken first to Mercy Health Partners in Shelby by Oceana EMS, then airlifted to Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids.

The victim had been swimming with family members and friends. "She is asthmatic and began to struggle in the water," Mast said. "They tried to get her to the sandbar and the (rip) current began to push her out."

Several boaters were in the area and attempted to assist, according to a Pentwater Police Department news release. Mast said other swimmers, including family members, tried to rescue her. He estimated the wave height at nearly 5 feet.

Mast said the current swept her toward the South Pier. He said some of the people who tried to help got into trouble themselves. She and her eventual rescuer made it to a ladder built into the South Pier and were

helped by others up onto the pier, he said. Pentwater police identified the rescuer as Mark Breen, 29, of Newaygo.

Assisting at the scene were state park personnel, the Pentwater Fire Department, the U.S. Coast Guard from Station Ludington and the Mason County Victims Assistance Unit.

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