



HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DIVE OPERATIONS REPORT

(Number of pages including this cover sheet 6)

35W Bridge Collapse Dive Operations

Dive Teams:

08-02-07

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – 2 divers
Anoka County Sheriff's Office – 5 divers
Ramsey County Sheriff's Office – 7 divers

08-03-07

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – 3 divers
Anoka County Sheriff's Office – 6 divers
Washington County Sheriff's Office – 7 divers

08-04-07

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – 3 divers
St. Croix County Sheriff's Office – 9 divers
Dakota County Sheriff's Office - 8

08-05-07

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – 3 divers
Carver County Sheriff's Office – 22 divers

08-06-07

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – 3 divers

08-07-07

No dive operations
Navy Divers took control of dive operations

08-08-07

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – 3 divers

(08-02-07) Dive Master: Deputy David M. Kolar #433

Dive operations started at 0700 hours with Anoka, Ramsey and Hennepin County dive teams. The first diver went into the water at 1123 hours on the down stream side of the bridge collapse. The last diver came out of the water at 1656 hours for the day.

Anoka County divers covered the area from the center of bridge collapse to the right descending bank and approximately 100 feet downstream from the bridge collapse. Anoka County divers were initially tasked with identifying two possible targets located with the side scan sonar. The first target was at center channel about 40 feet from the bridge collapse. This target turned out to be scaffolding. The second target was located approximately 15 feet from the bridge collapse and 65 feet from the right descending bank. This target was identified as a large piece of concrete from the bridge. Anoka

County conducted a grid search of the right descending bank of the river. Anoka County did not locate any vehicles or victims in this area.

Ramsey County covered the area from the center of the bridge collapse to the left descending bank and from the bridge collapse to about 100 feet down stream. Ramsey County divers were initially tasked with identifying one target, (vehicle), on the left descending bank. The target was located approximately 15 feet down stream and 30 feet from the left descending bank. Ramsey County did locate the target vehicle in this location. The vehicle was clear of any victims and was determined not be involved with this incident, due to the large amount of algae growing on the vehicle. This vehicle had a license plate that was last registered in 1997. Running a computer check of the license plate showed the vehicle to have been stolen in 1997. Ramsey County continued with a grid search of the left side of the river and did not find any other vehicles or victims.

Dive operations concluded at 1900 hours for the day. No vehicles or victims were found in the search area on the down stream side of the river. No divers were injured during dive operations, and all equipment functioned properly.

(08-03-07) Dive Master Deputy David M. Kolar #433

Dive operations started at 0700 hours with Anoka, Washington and Hennepin County dive teams. The first diver went into the water at 1053 hours on the up stream side of the bridge collapse. The last diver came out of the water at 1904 hours for the day.

Anoka County, Washington County and Hennepin County divers began searching from center channel to the left descending bank, and from the bridge collapse to approximately 50 feet up stream. Divers checked on approximately five sonar targets, (vehicles), that were located approximately 100-130 feet from the left descending bank and approximately 3 feet up stream from the bridge collapse.

The first vehicle located was a Chevy Silverado (IA. Lic. 896 MKA). This vehicle was located approximately 120 feet from the left descending bank, and approximately 3 feet from the bridge collapse. The vehicle was checked and was found to be unoccupied.

The second vehicle found was an Infinity (MN. Lic. NSY 333). The vehicle was located approximately 110 feet from the left descending bank, and approximately 3 feet from the bridge collapse. The vehicle was searched and found to be unoccupied.

The third vehicle found was a Jeep Wrangler (WI.Lic. UWL 624). This vehicle was found directly under the Chevy Silverado. Divers were not able to check the inside of this vehicle because it was crushed by the Silverado.

The fourth vehicle found was a Saturn (MN. Lic. TVW 359). This vehicle was located approximately 130 feet from the left descending bank and approximately 5 feet from the

bridge collapse. Divers were able to check the inside of this vehicle and found it to be unoccupied.

Divers cleared two vehicles that were partially submerged in the water. Both vehicles were found to be unoccupied.

The divers conducted a grid search of the area left of center channel to the left descending bank from the bridge collapse to 50 feet up stream. No other vehicles or victims were found under the surface of the water in this area.

At approximately 1400 hours the dive platform was repositioned to facilitate dive operations on the right descending half of the bridge collapse.

The fifth vehicle found was a Mazda (MN. Lic. PBY 498). This vehicle was located approximately 100 feet from the right descending bank and approximately 30 feet up stream from the bridge collapse. Divers cleared the inside of the vehicle and found no victims.

The sixth vehicle found was a Chrysler Minivan (MN. Lic. URU 878). This vehicle was located approximately 80 feet from the right descending and approximately 2 feet up stream from the bridge collapse. Divers were unable to determine if this vehicle was occupied. On a the second dive on this vehicle the divers determined the roof was severely damaged, and were unable to check inside for victims.

Dive operations were suspended for the day at 1904 hours. No divers were injured during dive operations, and all equipment functioned properly.

(08-04-07) Dive Master Deputy David M. Kolar #433

Dive operations started at 0700 hours with Dakota, St. Croix and Hennepin County dive teams. The first diver went into the water at 0955 hours on the up stream side of the bridge collapse. The last diver came out of the water at 1639 hours for the day.

Dive operations were split into two groups. One group of divers began to recheck the area from the right descending bank to center channel, from the bridge collapse to 100 feet up stream. No other vehicles or victims were found in this area.

The second group of divers began to prepare to remove the Chrysler Minivan (MN. Lic. URU 878) from the river. Divers made a total of three dives on the minivan. The first dive, two divers went and checked the area around the vehicle to determine if they could check the inside for any victims. The divers were unable to check inside as the roof was severely damaged. The second dive on the minivan the divers attempted to determine the best way to pull the vehicle out of the water. During this dive the divers pulled a bag containing a laptop computer out of the vehicle. The bag was turned over to the Hennepin

County Crime Lab. The third dive the divers ran a cable through the A and B pillars of the vehicle. This vehicle was removed with a crane and placed on a barge. This vehicle was found to be unoccupied.

Dive operations continued from center channel to about 100 feet from the right descending bank. No new vehicles or victims were found in this area.

Dive operations were suspended for the day at 1639 hours. No divers were injured during dive operations, and all equipment functioned properly.

(08-05-07) Dive Master Deputy David M. Kolar #433

Dive operations started at 0700 hours with Carver and Hennepin County dive teams. The first diver went into the water at 0921 hours on the up stream side of the bridge collapse. The last diver came out of the water at 1333 hours for the day.

Carver County began searching from the right descending bank to center channel of the bridge collapse to 100 feet up stream. No vehicles or victims were found in this area.

Dive operations were suspended at 1333 hours and turned over to the US Navy.

(08-06-07) Dive Master Deputy David M. Kolar #433

At 1922 hours Hennepin County divers dove on a target that was located by the side scan sonar. This target was located on down stream side of the 10th Ave. bridge, left descending bank. Divers found the target vehicle (MN. Lic. 621 NSD). This vehicle was last registered in September 1997. This vehicle was determined not be part of the bridge collapse.

No divers were injured during dive operations, and all equipment functioned properly.

(08-08-07) Dive Master Deputy David M. Kolar #433

At 0822 hours Hennepin County divers dove on a target that was located by side scan sonar on the down stream side of the 10th Ave. bridge, left descending bank. Divers found a vehicle (MN. Lic. YWT 902). This vehicle was determined not be part of the bridge collapse, due to the large amount of algae growing on the vehicle.

No divers were injured during dive operations, and all equipment functioned properly.

Side Scan Sonar operations
By Sgt Steve Hartig

On 08/01/07 at approximately 2000 hours, I assisted in conducting sonar operations on the downstream side of the 35W Bridge collapse. Numerous passes were conducted with the boat and sonar and several targets of interest were identified. After reviewing the images that were saved, it was determined that there were three, possibly four, targets that were possible vehicles and they were marked on a drawing of the bridge area. Dive operations were to commence on these areas first thing in the morning of 08/02/07.

On 08/02/07, I again assisted with sonar operations, this time on the upstream side of the collapsed bridge. Several vehicles were exposed out of the water in this area. Many targets of interest were identified on the upstream side of the bridge. Again, a drawing was made of the area and the targets of interest were marked on the drawing. Using sonar, I identified seven, possibly nine, targets of interest.

In the days proceeding the initial collapse, sonar operations were conducted from the collapse site to the Washington Ave. Bridge. Two more vehicles were identified on sonar which were located just below the 10th Ave. Bridge on the left descending bank. These two vehicles were cleared by the divers as not related to the bridge collapse.