

### 3 Injured in Boat Crash Near Clatskanie

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A boating crash on the Columbia River near Clatskanie put three people in the hospital Saturday night.

Columbia County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the injury crash on the Columbia River near the mouth of the Clatskanie River just after 10:00 p.m. Saturday night. The operator of a boat in the area observed the crash, and advised it involved a small aluminum boat, about 16-foot. The witness advised the craft had struck a wing dam.

As Sheriff's Office marine deputies were responding, the witness used his boat to retrieve all individuals (three males) from the crashed vessel. The citizen set the boat adrift when he transported the subjects to shore. All three people were then transported to St. John Hospital in Longview via ambulance.

The individuals transported to the hospital were Bradley A. McKay, 40, Clatskanie (determined by investigators to be the boat operator), Michael E. Lindberg, 50, Portland, and Clifford R. Fetter, 39, Sandy. Information on the condition of those involved in the crash is sketchy. St. John Hospital has refused to release information to investigators without a subpoena.

After these individuals were transported to the hospital, deputies conducted a search for the crashed vessel. The vessel was located Sunday afternoon near Sand Island, approximately two miles East of Jones Beach on the Columbia River.

"The cause of this crash remains under investigation," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "The evidence we have thus far indicates the vessel was traveling fairly fast in the dark -- and that's a recipe for trouble."

The sheriff's office is asking for anyone who might have any information regarding this incident to call the sheriff's office at (503) 366-4600.