



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glen Canyon National
Recreation Area

691 Scenic View Dr.
PO Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040-1507

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CONTACT: Kevin Schneider
928-608-6208

Glen Canyon News Release

Kayaker Killed on Lake Powell

Page, Ariz. – A Canadian woman was killed Tuesday afternoon when her kayak overturned in Padre Bay on Lake Powell. Michele Melik, of Edmonton, Alberta, was kayaking about 100 yards offshore with a friend when heavy winds and 4- foot swells on Lake Powell caused her boat to capsize.

Melik's friend's boat also capsized, although he was able to safely swim to shore. He could not rescue Melik because of the dangerous water conditions and lost track of her in the weather and confusion.

Melik's 15- year old son was nearby in camp while the incident was occurring. The two spent Tuesday night along the shore of Lake Powell near Dominguez Butte.

On Wednesday morning, they flagged down a passing boat, operated by the park concessioner, Aramark. The captain of the boat notified National Park Service rangers, who immediately responded to search for Melik by boat. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's aircraft also began an aerial search of the area. Melik's body was found by the park aircraft at approximately 12:30 pm.

Winds were strong yesterday with storms blowing across the region. Gusts at Wahweap Marina exceeded 45 mph at times.

The cause of Melik's death is under investigation. She was wearing a lifejacket. She was 41- years old.

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