



Andy Shepherd and Ryan McClure, of the West Carrollton fire department, drive the new rescue boat on the Great Miami River.

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News Release

WEST CARROLLTON FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS NEW RESCUE BOAT TO AID IN WATER RESCUES

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – The low-head dam and fast current of the Great Miami River can make dangerous conditions for recreational boaters who use the river near West Carrollton.

The West Carrollton fire department recently acquired a new 13-foot inflatable, Zodiac boat with a 30-horsepower motor to aid in rescues along the river.

There are a number of things that can happen on the river, said Fire Chief Jack Keister. “Our boats are an important part of the tools we use in the fire department,” he said.

“Over the years we’ve had personal watercraft, such as jet skis that have gone over the low-head dam,” Keister said. “We’ve also had drowning-victims up-river, above the dam,” he said.

Keister said that all the personnel who are on the river-rescue team are trained regularly for fast-water rescue. They are initially certified through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The new boat seats four-people and features a relatively-new “four-stroke” technology. “They just came out with this in the last few years,” said Capt. Ed Huffman. “As far as I

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know, we are one of the first departments in the area to start using this technology,” he said.

Keister said the new boat is the same as those used by military forces such as the Navy Seals.

When the department responds to rescue calls on the river, it uses two boats. The department’s other boat is an inflatable, jet-ski boat which does not require a separate motor. “This allows for quick response to the scene,” Huffman said.

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For media interviews, call **Fire Chief Jack Keister** at (937) 847-4645. Call **Capt. Ed Huffman** at (937) 859-1709.