For Immediate Release
Aug 08, 2013

Boating Accident

Incident: Boating Accident / Off#: 13-048370

Location: Tampa Bay / Entrance to Smack’s Bayou
Date / Time of Incident: August 8th, 2013 - 12:00 hours

Victim(s): Pedro A. Velez W/M, DOB: 12/10/1991, of 1712 Manor Drive, Kissimmee, FL, 34741

Velez was riding a friend’s 2004 Kawasaki jet ski near the entrance to Smack’s Bayou by Snell Isle.

Velez shut the jet ski he was riding off, while he was waiting for his friend to catch up. When Velez went to restart the jet ski, it exploded, ejecting Velez into the water.

Velez was removed from the water by St. Petersburg Fire Rescue personnel with the assistance of a nearby boater. He was transported to Bayfront Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

It is believed at this time the explosion and subsequent fire were caused by a leak in the fuel system and ignited by the ignition process.

The damaged jet ski turned over to the custody of it’s owner, Jerald Murphy and has been removed from the area.

Release Prepared by: Officer M. Robertson

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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