

SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

The second of November 2021, two people were working on the river Vojmån nearby Vilhelmina. The work was partly done from a small open work boat equipped with an outboard engine close to a dam that formed a spillway for the hydroelectric plant nearby. As they were about to finish the work for the day the crew had to cross the river again. During the crossing, the boat came too close to the crest of the dam and hit it with the propeller. Instantly the boat got caught by the strong current and the boat drifted over crest and into the rapids.

One of the persons managed to reach the river bank and called for help. The second person was caught by the rapids. The missing person was found deceased 29 May 2022. The boat was found downstream on lake Volgsjön. It had suffered severe structural damages. The crew did not use life jackets or other personal protecting equipment, suitable for rivers/rapids at the present temperature.

The cause of the accident was that the risks of completing the work in an environment with low temperatures and strong currents were underestimated. Thus, the work was initiated without proper protective precautions being taken.

Underlying factors are, insufficient systematic work environment management, lack of follow up of the adherence to the client internal safety standards, and lack of relevant supervision by the regulatory authority, which led to an insufficient safety level. Also, the absence of specific regulations regarding personal safety equipment could have had an influence.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the issue of explicit requirements regarding personal flotation devices need to be further assessed, SHK refrains from issuing any safety recommendations in this respect. Nor is SHK issuing any recommendations to Aqua Support as relevant measures has already been adopted. However, SHK issues the following safety recommendations.

Vattenfall Vattenkraft AB is recommended to:

- To ensure the follow up of their own requirements regarding implementation of safety standards with the subcontractor (see section 3.4). *(RS 2022:08 R1)*

Arbetsmiljöverket (the Swedish Work Environment Authority) is recommended to:

- Investigate under which circumstances a more general investigation of the systematic work environment management system should be initiated, based on deficiencies found in their normal safety inspections and checks, at the inspected workplace (see section 3.5). *(RS 2022:08 R2)*