

Whitewater rafter dies from amoebic infection after NC trip

June 22 2016

A Ohio woman who went whitewater rafting in North Carolina has died of an infection after being exposed to an amoeba that is naturally present in warm fresh water.

North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services said the U.S. Centers for Disease Control suspects *Naegleria fowleri* (nuh-GLEER'-ee-uh FOW'-lur-ee), a one-celled organism that can cause primary amebic meningoencephalitis.

The name of the person who died Sunday wasn't officially released, but The Columbus Dispatch identified her as 18-year-old Lauren Seitz of Westerville, Ohio.

The victim's only known underwater exposure was thought to be when a raft overturned at the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte.

A spokesman for the center did not respond to messages Wednesday.

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