



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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USIBWC MOURNS LOSS OF TWO EMPLOYEES IN FATAL CRANE ACCIDENT AT AMISTAD DAM

Two employees of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (USIBWC) died in a work-related accident at Amistad Dam on April 29. The accident occurred at approximately 11:30 a.m. CDT while the workers were performing routine maintenance at the dam. The employees are Industrial Equipment Mechanics Ruben Solorio and Michael James. Mr. Solorio had worked for the USIBWC since 2002 and Mr. James had been with the Commission for six weeks.

“We are deeply saddened by this tragedy and we will ensure that a thorough investigation is undertaken. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of Ruben and Michael,” said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina.

The accident occurred as workers were pressure washing gate #2 on the downstream side of the dam, a recurring maintenance activity. Although the cause of the accident is under investigation, initial reports indicate that a crane at the top of the dam was lowering the two workers in a basket when the crane tipped, causing the basket to fall into the water. Divers from the U.S. Border Patrol recovered the bodies of the two men on April 30.

Personnel from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the USIBWC are investigating the tragedy.

Amistad Dam is an international dam across the Rio Grande at Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila. The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. In accordance with the treaties and other international agreements, the Commission operates and maintains Amistad Dam.

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