

# NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS IN THE GREAT LAKES BEACH SAFETY COMMUNITY IN DROWNING RESPONSE

Presented By:  
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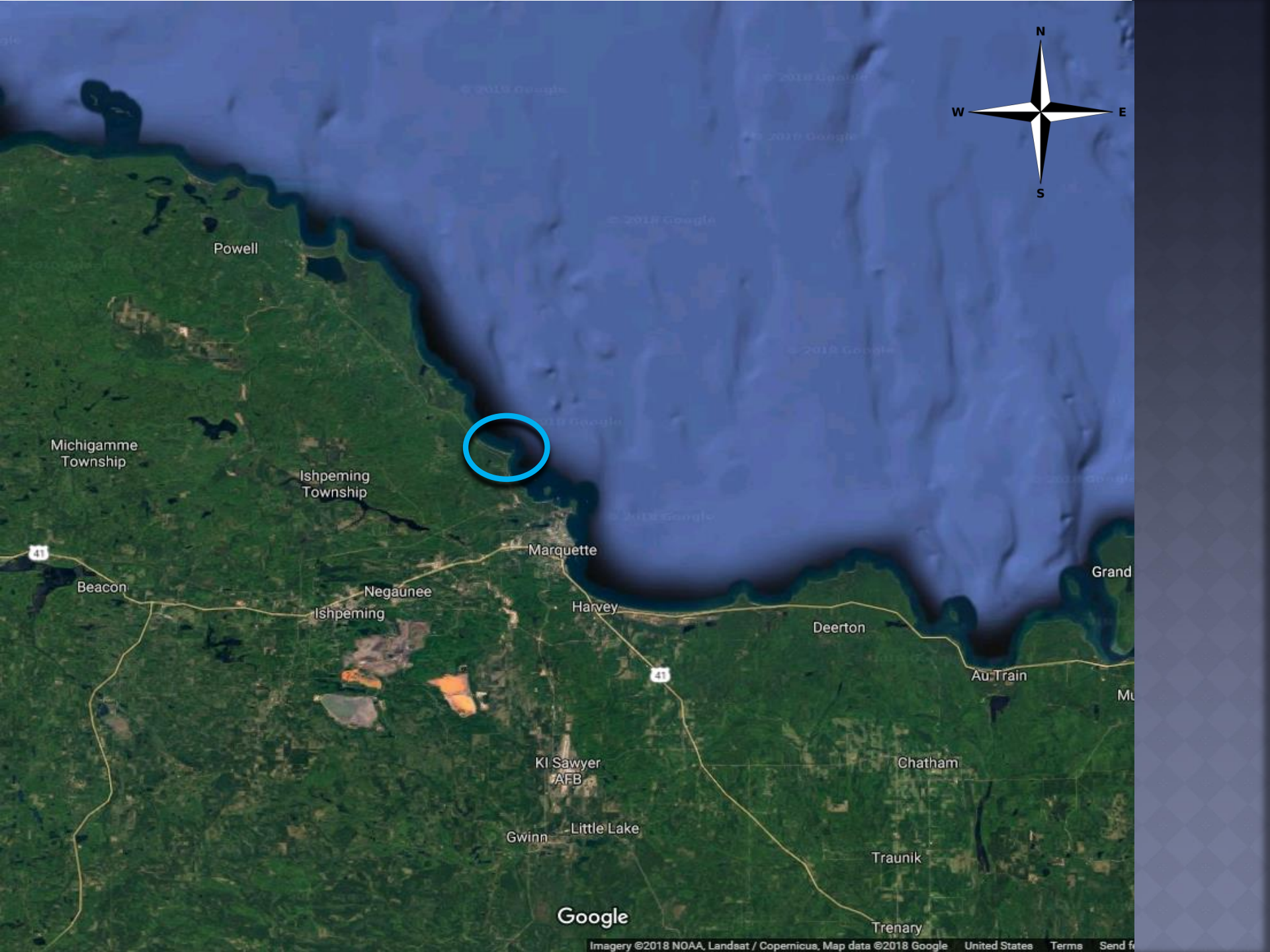
# OUTLINE

- Overview of drowning incident and location
  - Changes in the area/Water Levels
  - Bathymetry of the area
  - Water Temperatures
  - Signage/Rescue Equipment prior to Incident
- Interagency Response
  - Signage/Rescue Equipment post Incident
    - Including an EMILY
  - Equipment Stands/Buildings
- Maintaining Strong Relationships

# THE DROWNING INCIDENT

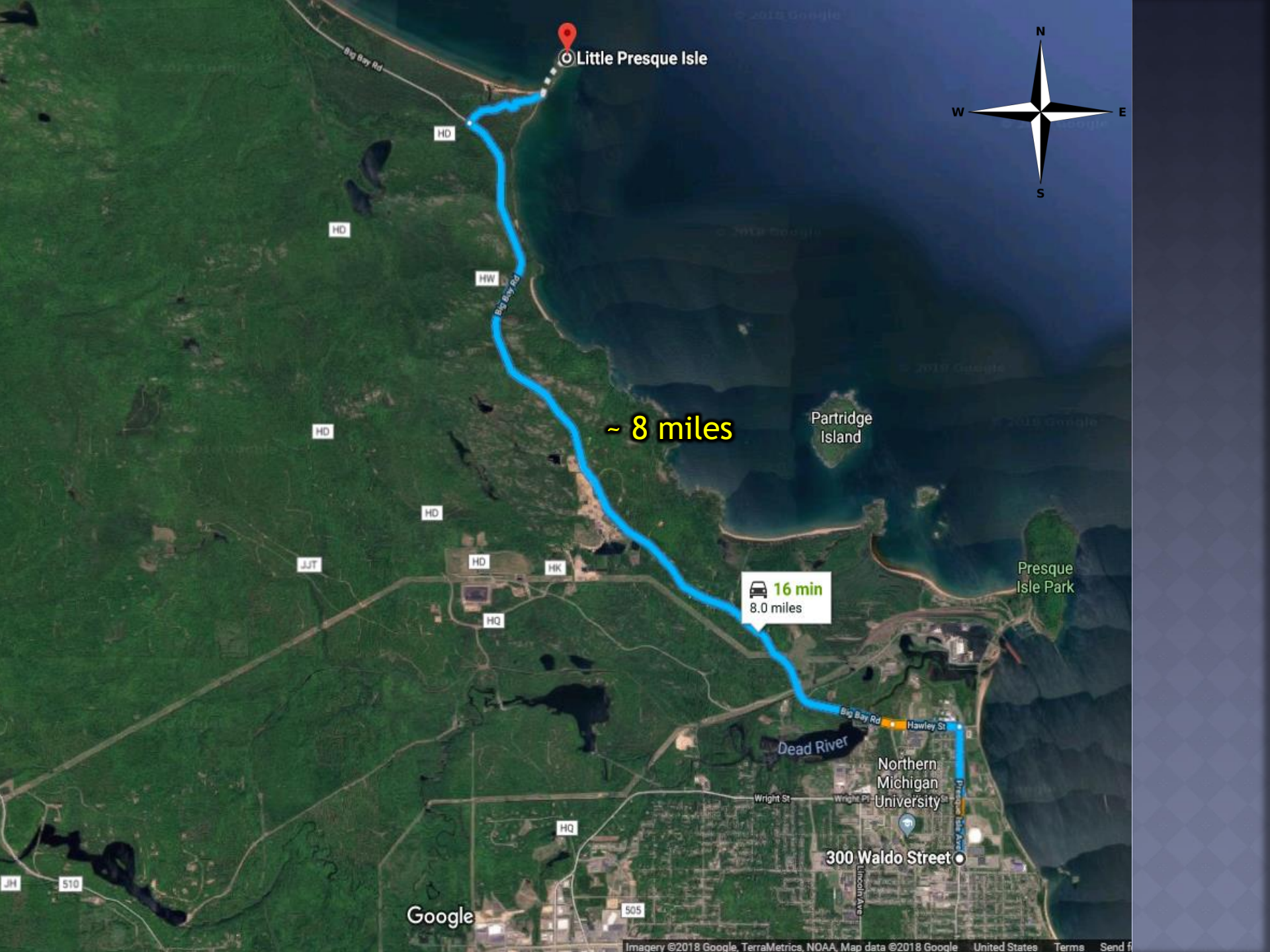
- ⦿ Occurred Saturday afternoon, June 11, 2016
- ⦿ Involved 2 Females and 1 Male
  - 22 and 24 years old
- ⦿ Wading across-not swimming
  - One female stepped in a hole and was swept into deeper water
  - Her friend and a bystander jumped in to save her
  - The two rescuers drowned
- ⦿ Air Temperature was around 75F/24C
- ⦿ Water Temperature was around 40F/4C
- ⦿ N-NW Wind 25 - 35 mph/11-18 m/s

# LITTLE PRESQUE ISLE



Google





Little Presque Isle

~ 8 miles

16 min  
8.0 miles

Partridge Island

Presque Isle Park

Dead River

Northern Michigan University

300 Waldo Street

Google



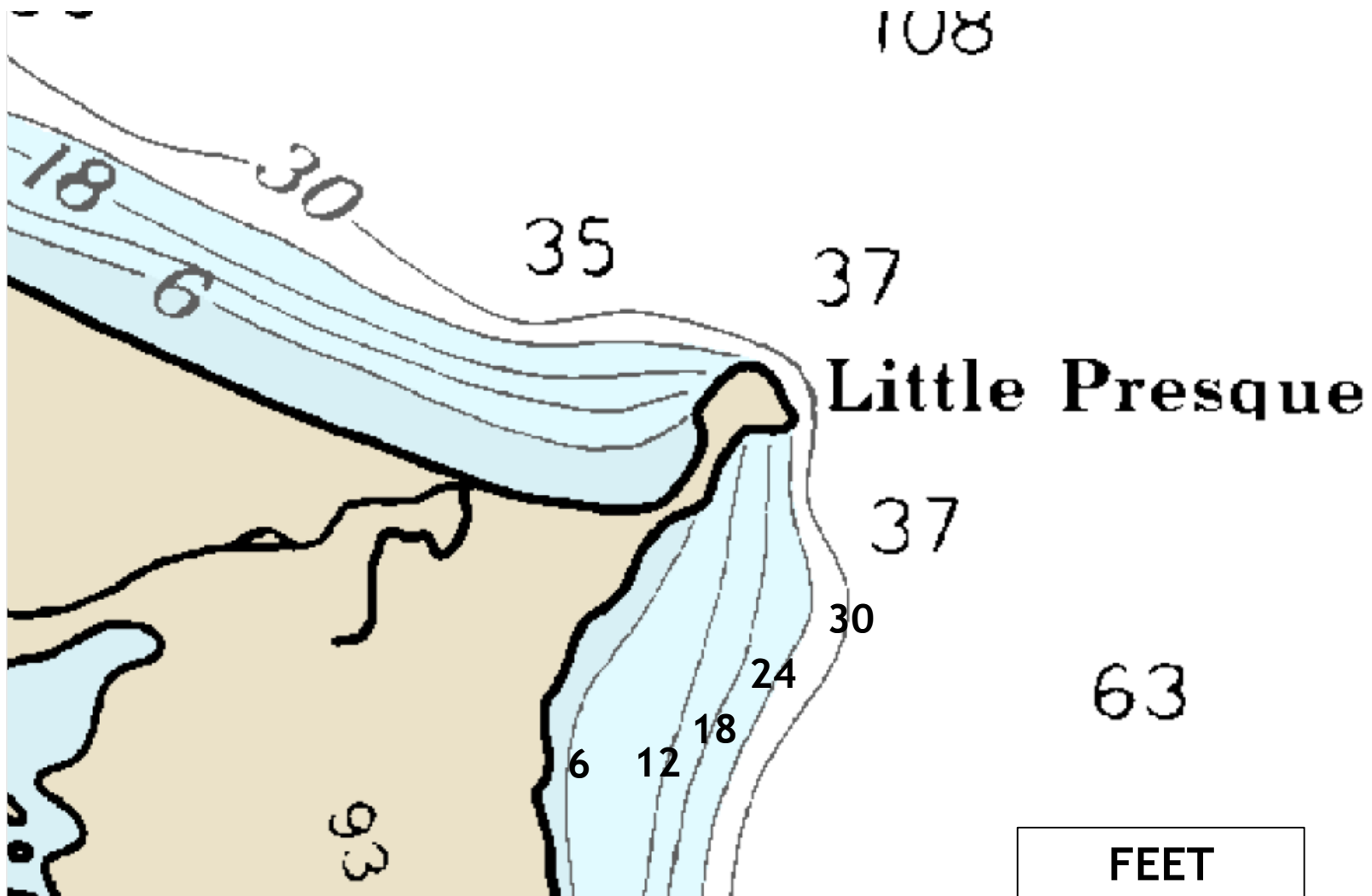
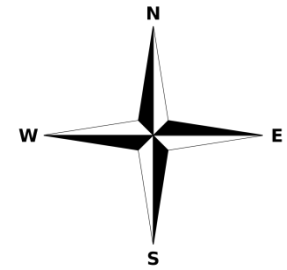


Little Presque Isle

Little Presque Isle

Google

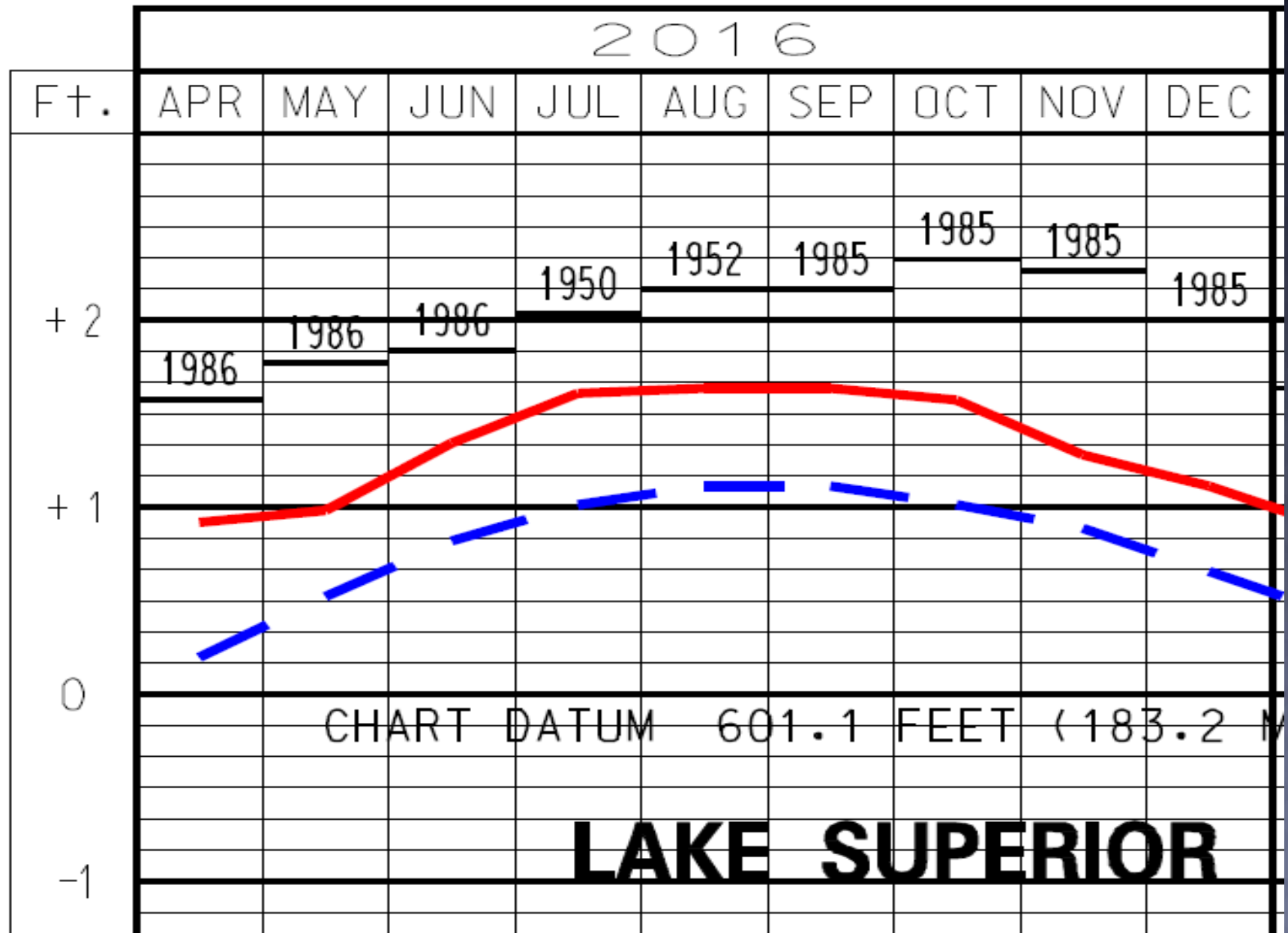
# BATHYMETRY



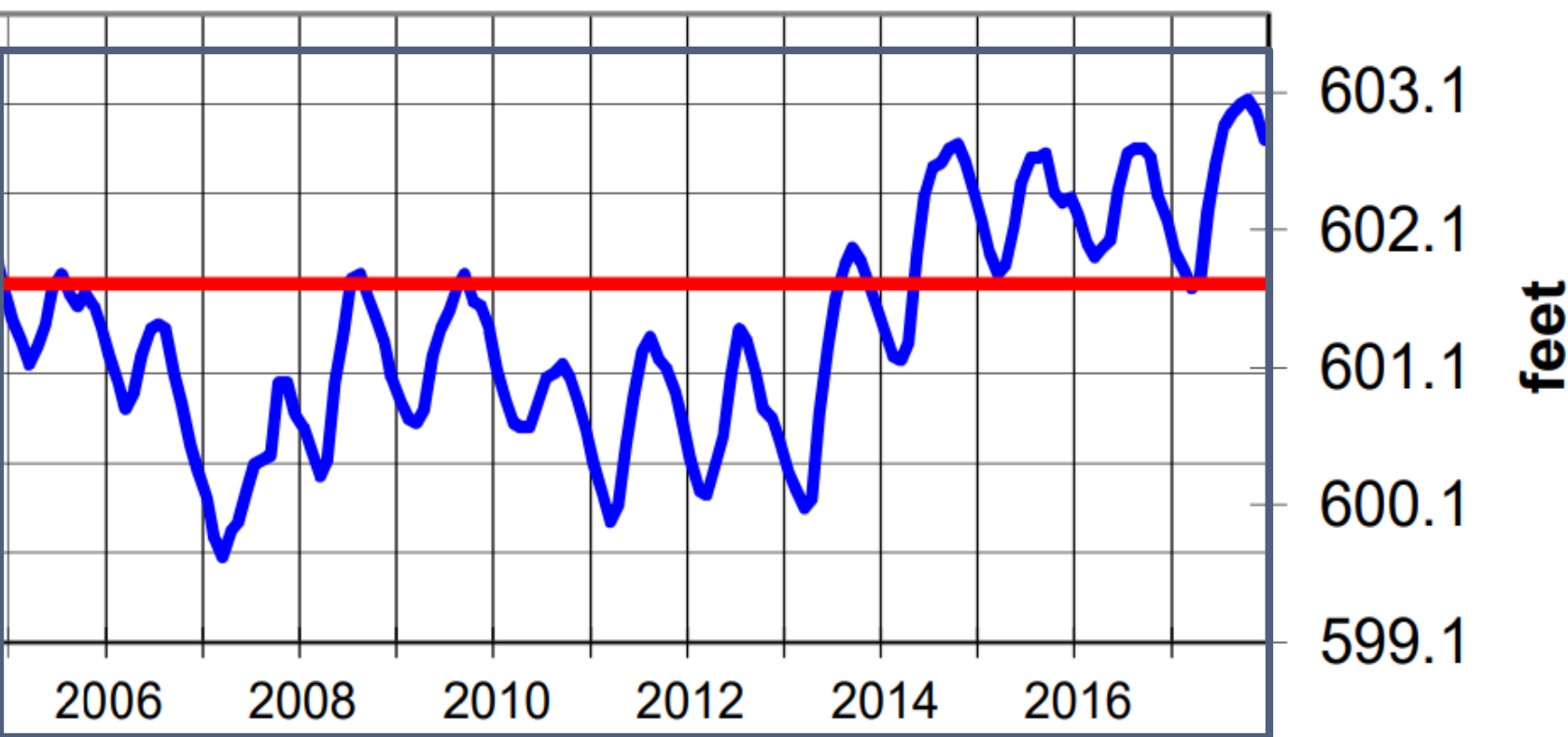
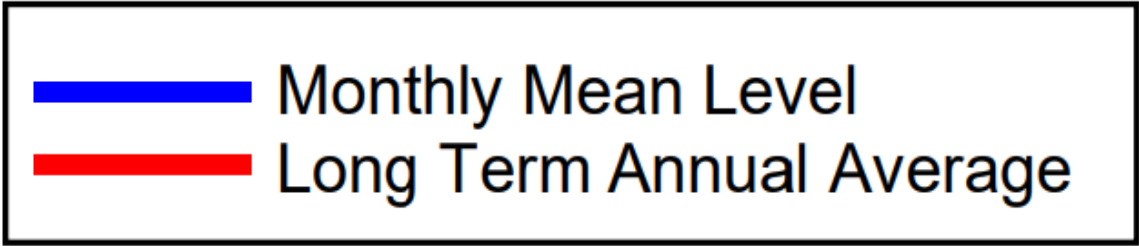


# WHAT FACTORS LED TO THE DROWNING?

- ⊙ Changes in the Water Levels
  - Easy to cross in the past at lower levels in the past 10 years
- ⊙ Cold early season water temperatures
  - 40F/4C at time of Incident
  - 15-30 minutes loss of consciousness
- ⊙ Equipment Placement and Lack of Equipment



<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Monthly-Bulletin-of-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/>





# WATER LEVEL COMPARISON

**2006**



**2016**



Photos Courtesy of Don Rolfson-NWS Employee

# **EQUIPMENT AND AREA REVIEW**

# SAFETY EQUIPMENT PRE-INCIDENT



Photo Courtesy of TV 6



# SAFETY EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT





# SAFETY EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT



# **EQUIPMENT AND AREA POST REVIEW/RESPONSE**



# SAFETY EQUIPMENT AFTER REVIEW





# SAFETY EQUIPMENT AFTER REVIEW

Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard



Photo Courtesy of Jaclyn Ritzman - NWS Employee



# SAFETY EQUIPMENT AFTER REVIEW



Photo Courtesy of Jaclyn Ritzman - NWS Employee



# SAFETY EQUIPMENT AFTER REVIEW



Photo Courtesy of TV 6



# SAFETY EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT AFTER REVIEW



# AGENCIES INVOLVED





# MAINTAINING THESE PARTNERSHIPS

- ◉ Provide lifeguard training- Annually
- ◉ Organize the Recreation and Beach Safety Expo - Bi-Annually
- ◉ Life on Lake Superior - Bi-Annually
- ◉ NMU Fall Fest
- ◉ Annual Beach Safety Conferences

# REFERENCES

- ◎ Upper Michigan Source - TV6
  - <http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/news/>
- ◎ Office of Coast Survey (NOAA)
  - <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/ChartCatalog/GreatLakes.html>
- ◎ US Army Corps of Engineers
  - <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>



# QUESTIONS