

FDNY fishes gramps out of Hudson

A Fire Department rescue crew pulled an elderly man from the Hudson River yesterday after responding to reports of someone in the water near a Holland Tunnel ventilator tower.

The 73-year-old victim "was ³¹²chattering but not talking" when lifted from the 50-degree water, department spokesman John Mulligan said. He was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital for treatment of exposure.

Mulligan said firefighter Patrick Wall, who was sent into the water to help the victim, also was taken to the hospital for precautionary treatment.

The victim was in stable condition, Mulligan said.

It was not known why or how long the man was in the water. He was found in old pilings near the ventilator, about 100 yards offshore, Mulligan said.

According to Lt. James Zodkovic, the commander of the fire rescue boat unit, the man was in danger of being "washed away on the outgoing tide." AP