

Up the River without a Paddle

Marine 1 rescues kayaker out of the Hudson River

When a 32-year-old Hoboken man was kayaking in the Hudson River on November 21, he ran into a small problem -- he dropped his paddle.

The high winds and strong current capsized his boat, and he became pinned between pilings near Morton Street in Manhattan, just north of Pier 40.

After struggling for 30 minutes in the

chilly waters before help was called, his core temperature dropped to 93 degrees.

Luckily, Marine 1 was on its way.

Yet as the team of firefighters on the fireboat, Marine 1 Alpha, reached the victim, the rescue operation hit a snag.

"The victim was determined not to leave his kayak," said Firefighter Timothy Moynihan. "He didn't want to let

go."

Yet Lieutenant Michael Finer and the rest of the crew were determined to rescue the man.

"We positioned the boat, got a line on him and pulled him to safety," said Firefighter Moynihan.

EMS transported the victim to St. Vincent's Hospital for treatment.



Fireboat Marine 1 Alpha makes its way through the Hudson River. The boat is 27 feet long, has the ability to travel up to 45 miles per hour and can transport 16 people. Although it is equipped for fire suppression, its design makes the boat ideal for water rescues.

Rapid Rescue

Quick thinking by Marine 1 saves an elderly man in the Hudson

When Marine 1 responded to the aid of a man in the chilly Hudson River on November 20, they knew they didn't have much time.

The crew sped to the aid of a 73-year-old man, who was bobbing and struggling to stay afloat near the ventilator tower of the Holland Tunnel.

"He was flailing around and ready to go under," said Firefighter Wall.

Lieutenant James Zodkovic said members quickly and carefully worked to

maneuver the fireboat Marine 1 Alpha through the fast-moving currents and jagged pilings in the area. Then Firefighter Wall attached himself to the safety reel and lowered himself to the victim.

While the officer handled communications onboard, Firefighter Wall grabbed hold of the frightened man and the crew hoisted him onto the boat.

It is not clear why or how long the man was in the water.

"It was most definitely a team effort,"

said Lieutenant Zodkovic. "We got there quickly and everything fell into place."

Even though their boat became snared in the underwater pilings as they made their way back to the pier, the crew was able to dislodge it quickly and proceed to shore.

When they returned to their base on Bloomfield Street, North River, they were met by an EMS crew at the dock who transported the man to St. Vincent's Hospital.

A Rescue and a Message in Safety

Woman closes the door, helps firefighters save her and her daughter

Nabila Nazli told rescuers she always knew she would be brave when something bad happened, but FDNY members are also praising her for being smart.

She closed her bedroom door as she rushed to the window to help her young children escape a second-floor apartment fire in Gravesend, Brooklyn on November 17.

"She was totally trapped," said Firefighter Bob Treiland of Ladder 166. "Every room was totally engulfed in flames. Shutting that door saved them."

Before fire units arrived on scene, four

of Nazli's children were saved as she dropped each one to neighbors waiting below.

Yet the thick smoke quickly overcame Nazli and her five-year-old daughter, and they collapsed just feet from the window.

Firefighter Treiland said he rushed to climb a portable ladder and immediately located the two victims. He carried the small girl to safety as his colleagues rescued her mother.

"She was face down and totally limp,"

"She was face down and totally limp. She was totally lifeless. It's amazing she survived."



Firefighter Robert Treiland

said the 13-year veteran of the Department. "She was totally lifeless. It's amazing she survived."

The early morning fire moved quickly through the wood frame building, which took firefighters about an hour to get under control.

The victims were transported to area hospitals and are expected to make a full recovery. Nine firefighters also suffered minor injuries in the fire, which fire marshals deemed accidental.

A Terrifying Dive

Marine One-Alpha rescues a woman in the Hudson River

It was like a scene from the movies.

Marine One-Alpha responded to the call of a woman in the icy waters of the Hudson River on December 4, just off 34th Street in Manhattan.

When they spotted the victim, she was about 75 yards away from their boat, struggling to keep her head above water.

Yet as they started their approach, she was swept away by the current.

The crew followed the victim through the choppy waters, but could only get within 20 feet of her due to underwater obstructions and the danger posed by the



Firefighter Augie Tufano

boat's propellers.

"I was determined to get her before she went down for good," said Firefighter Augie Tufano, a 21-year-veteran. "It was freezing outside, so we were all concerned."

Firefighter Tufano wasted no time and began to swim toward the female, as strong waves tossed him into underwater pilings.

"Once he reached her, she attempted to climb up

on him due to her severe state of panic, pushing him under the water, making it difficult and dangerous for him to gain control of her," Lieutenant Thomas Piambino said.

"I was determined to get her before she went down for good."

When Firefighter Tufano finally got a rescue hold on the woman, he was able to quickly pull her to safety.

"[Firefighter Tufano] rescued a victim that surely would have drowned that afternoon," said Lieutenant Piambino. "Our crew is skillful and ready for anything. She is really lucky."

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