



Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
8 Bucknam Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
Business 207-781-2610
Fax 207-699-5268

NEWS RELEASE - 2021-06

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For Further Information, contact Chief Howard Rice, Jr. at 207-781-2610

Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to Report of Man in Water off Martin's Point Bridge

On 08/23/2021 at 8:33 p.m., Falmouth Fire-EMS was notified of a possible person in the water off the Martin's Point Bridge on Route 1 just across the Falmouth line from Portland. Falmouth Police and Fire-EMS units responded and once on scene were told from witnesses that a man was thought to have jumped into the water from the bridge. Mutual Aid was requested from Portland for their heavy rescue to launch an inflatable boat on the Portland side of the bridge. Meanwhile, Falmouth Marine 7, a 13-foot inflatable boat, was launched from Mackworth Island. The tide was coming in, so the Portland boat checked under the bridge and in the area west of the bridge. Marine 7 was sent further inland and checked the area up to the mouth of the Presumpscot River. The Portland Fire Department's Marine Unit also sent a larger boat to the area just east of the bridge.

Visibility was extremely poor due to thick fog. Crews from Falmouth Engine 2 and Engine 4 walked both sides of the bridge and the banks on the shore with lights and thermal imaging cameras to look for signs of a possible victim. None were found.

The Maine Patrol also was called to the scene and brought a larger boat that searched the area on both sides of the bridge as well.

After approximately 2 ½ hours of searching the water and the shoreline, the search was postponed until daylight. Falmouth Fire-EMS crews and the Marine Patrol returned at 6 a.m. today and searched the shoreline by foot and the water by boat to look for any signs of a person in the water. Nothing has been found. A search drone has been requested to respond to the scene later in the day to assist.

At the time of the call Falmouth Fire-EMS units were wrapping up a practical training scenario on searching for injured and lost persons in off-road situations. Crews had just practiced using thermal imaging cameras to locate simulated victims in a field.

The Martin's Point Bridge was closed for 2 hours while crews worked from it. It was re-opened just after 11 p.m. While several Falmouth Fire-EMS crews were on scene on Route 1, other Falmouth Fire-EMS crews stood by in quarters to cover the town in the event another emergency call came in.

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