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NEWS RELEASE - 2023-04

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Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to Injured Hiker on Trail

On Friday morning at 10:39 a.m. Falmouth Fire-EMS was called to the report of an injured person on a trail off Blackstrap Hill Preserve on Blackstrap Road. Falmouth Engine 4, Ambulance 2, Utility 6 with the side-by-side UTV, and Chief Rice responded.

Engine 4 arrived on scene at 10:50 a.m. along with Falmouth Police. They met with a friend of the injured party who was able to tell them where the person was and connect them to him via cell phone. Ambulance 2 and Chief Rice arrived on scene shortly after. Chief Rice established Incident Command. The patient was estimated to be 2 miles into the trail system and had entered the trails from the Blackstrap Hill Preserve. Given the location of the patient and using the trail system maps, the quickest access to the patient on foot was determined to be from Trolly Farm Road off Hurricane Road. Engine 4 relocated to that location. Ambulance 2 and Utility 6 relocated to the trailhead off Hurricane Road. It was unsure how close the snowmobile trail would get to the patient from Trolly Farm Road, but it looked like it would be the quickest way, so the crew started in on foot. A crew with the side-by-side UTV started into the trail system from Hurricane Road.

Given the location of the patient near the Maine Turnpike, an ambulance and engine with a crew from Cumberland was called to stage at the southbound entrance by the rest area in case it was determined that it would be possible to bring the patient to the highway.

The crew of Engine 4 arrived at the patient at 11:15 a.m. and started medical care. They advised the Incident Commander that the way they hiked in was flooded and would not work for extrication of the patient. The plan was made to bring the UTV in as far as it could go on the trails and carry the patient to the UTV with the wheel and stokes basket for extrication. The UTV could not make it very far due to the wet conditions on the trail from the recent heavy rains. The wheel and stokes basket were walked into the patient the rest of the way.

When the crew with the wheel and stokes basket made it to the scene, the patient was loaded into the stokes basket and crews started to bring the patient out via the trail to Blackstrap Road. Crews had to find an alternate route due to the wet and slippery conditions of the trail caused by the recent rain. At one point, a small stream was encountered that was very swollen and difficult to cross. The crew then decided to bring the patient up to the Maine Turnpike via the wheel and stokes basket through the woods and was able to find a snowmobile trail bridge a short distance away. The ambulance and engine company responded to the highway from staging and waited for the crew to come out. Maine State Police assisted with providing traffic control on the highway. The patient was brought out of the woods at 12:57 p.m. and was transferred to the ambulance and transported to the hospital.

Chief Rice commended the crews for their work and cited the recent rain as causing a delay in accessing and extricating the patient from the trails.

End of release.

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