



FAIRBANKS POLICE

911 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4616
Phone: (907) 450-6500
Fax: (907) 452-1588
Email: fpd@ci.fairbanks.ak.us



PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 1, 2009

Location: 101 Lacey Street

Incident: Assist Other Agency

Case #: 09-22854

On November 1, 2009, at approximately 10:59 am, officers responded to the Chena River near the Rabinowitz Courthouse for multiple reports of a female or a child in the water. Upon arrival, responding officers tried to reach a woman, later identified as 57 year old Fairbanks resident Margaret "Maggie" Barrowclough, who had fallen through the ice into the freezing water while trying to save her dog.

Officers staged themselves on the river bank while one officer, who had removed his duty belt and ballistic vest, slid on his stomach out towards the edge of the ice with a rope. Ms Barrowclough grabbed the rope; but was too weak to hold onto it. The officer slid closer to Ms Barrowclough and held onto her hand while the other two officers on shore tried to drag them back towards the edge.

The Fairbanks Fire Department also arrived on scene and deployed a fireman in a cold water suit for the water rescue. The ice holding the officer and the fireman broke sending them into the freezing water as well. The officer and fireman in the water were then able to rescue Ms Barrowclough without further incident.

Fairbanks Fire Department paramedics transported Ms Barrowclough to the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for hyperthermia. She was treated and released. Ms Barrowclough stated her dog fell into the ice and she tried to rescue it. She reached her dog and threw him towards the shore; but was unable to get out of the river. Officers searched the area and were unable to find her dog. Officers contacted Ms Barrowclough after her release from FMH and were pleased to hear that her dog returned home safely.

An unidentified gentleman on scene offered his coat to the officer who fell into the river and the officer inadvertently left a small piece of police equipment in a coat pocket when he returned it. If anyone has information about the missing equipment, please contact the on duty **Fairbanks Police Department Watch Commander at 450-6500.**

App: *JH*

cc: Mayor Strle
Press Board