

Grand Chute Fire Department

Timothy A. Bantes, Fire Chief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VEHICLE CAREENS INTO GRAND CHUTE RETENTION POND

Occupant, Dog Rescued; Accident Under Investigation

GRAND CHUTE – On Friday December 18th at 11:21 PM the Grand Chute Fire Department was dispatched to the area of North Lynndale Drive and Grand Chute Boulevard for a report of a vehicle that drove into a retention pond. While units were en route, Outagamie County 911 Dispatchers provided additional information advising that one occupant and a dog were possibly trapped in the partially submerged and quickly sinking vehicle. This prompted fire personnel to request a response from the Neenah-Menasha Fire and Outagamie County Sheriff's Department Dive Teams prior to our arrival on scene.

Based on the updates being provided by dispatch, fire personnel proactively prepared the necessary equipment in transit to the scene to facilitate their immediate deployment and entry into the water to effect a rescue. The first due fire company arrived to find an SUV nearly completely submerged in the retention pond, and was able to confirm the entrapment of one individual and a dog from statements made by two occupants of the vehicle who had self-extricated prior to the arrival of emergency personnel. Encapsulated in protective suits designed for cold water exposure, firefighters initiated an aggressive tactile search of the vehicle which had been consumed by the frigid water, resulting in the rapid location and removal of the trapped occupant as well as the dog.

The rescued occupant of the vehicle received immediate treatment by Grand Chute Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance personnel, and was subsequently transported to the hospital. The additional two occupants who were able to free themselves from the vehicle were also evaluated and transported. Aside from being cold and frightened, the dog appeared to be unharmed. Firefighters proceeded to dry and warm the animal in the comfort of the apparatus cab before transferring it to Grand Chute Police Department personnel on location. The Dive Team resources from Neenah-Menasha Fire proved to be unnecessary and were cancelled, however two representatives from the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department Team continued their response to assist with the investigation and safe recovery of the vehicle. The accident is under investigation by the Grand Chute Police Department.

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