

Press Release: February 21, 2006

Mountain View Firefighters Rescue Dog From a 20 Foot Well

Erie- Firefighters from the Mountain View Fire Protection District pulled 1 1/2 Year old Maya Star, a Pitt-Bull/Black Lab mix from a well after she precariously fell over twenty feet into it late Monday afternoon at her Erie home. Her owners were home at the time and called 911 immediately.

When firefighters arrived at 735 Holbrook Street in Erie, they could barely see the dog down in the water filled hole that was under their deck. A 16x16 cut out in the deck's flooring gave firefighters the access room they needed to free Maya from her predicament.

"We train pretty regularly for technical rescues such as this. The quick actions and planning of our crews on scene definitely helped ensure a good outcome for Maya," said Jesse Hodgson, spokesman for the Mountain View Fire Protection District.

A rope rigging system was used to lower firefighter Sean Tallman down the hole where he was able to grab her and bring her to safety, with the help of other firefighters. Tallman was unable to feel the bottom of the well after putting his foot over two feet past Maya's chest but stated she was not paddling.

"She must have been holding on to a shelf of some sort because when I grabbed her, I couldn't feel the bottom of the well. She was defiantly ready to come out though," Tallman said late Monday evening.

Maya's owners immediately took her into their home after she was retrieved, dried her off and checked her for injuries; none were found

"Maya is at home tonight, undoubtedly resting from her ordeal, but otherwise in great shape," Hodgson said.

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