Roswell Firefighters Rescue Drowning Victim in Chattahoochee River

Firefighters Demonstrate Exceptional Bravery in Swiftwater Rescue Operation; Roswell Fire Department Reminds Community of Water Safety Practices during Water Safety Month

Roswell, GA (May 4, 2023) - On April 27, 2023, Roswell firefighters rescued a woman who was drowning in the fast-moving waters of the Chattahoochee River. The incident happened at 1:29 p.m. near 925 Riverside Road at the Don White Memorial Park after several bystanders reported seeing the woman struggling to stay afloat. The City of Roswell's E911 Communications Center effectively communicated the necessary information to the rescuers, which helped quickly locate the victim and save her life.

The Roswell Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team and firefighters, led by Captain Cochran, immediately donned appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and attempted to reach the woman with a water rescue throw rope. The woman was unable to grab the rope, so, without hesitation, Firefighters Riley and Laudermilk jumped into the 50-degree water, swam out to the victim, and brought her to safety. "Thanks to their quick thinking, calm demeanor, and exceptional bravery, Firefighters Riley and Laudermilk were able to rescue the victim and bring her safely to the shore," Roswell Fire Chief Joe Pennino stated. "Their heroic actions undoubtedly saved her life."

The Roswell Fire Department is proud to have such dedicated and selfless individuals serving our community. Firefighter Riley and Laudermilk's heroism is a testament to their character and willingness to put our community first.

"We are extremely proud of the Roswell Fire Department and the remarkable skill and professionalism of these two local heroes," said Mayor Kurt Wilson. "Mayor and City Council are dedicated to the continued support of Roswell's world-class public safety professionals, who put their lives on the line every day to protect this community."

Did you know that May is Water Safety Month? The Roswell Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the importance of practicing water safety. When you are in or around water, pay close attention to your surroundings and be cautious when entering bodies of water. Wear appropriate safety gear, such as life jackets, and never swim alone. Remember, if you see someone struggling in the water, call for help immediately and never attempt a rescue alone.

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Photo 1: Firefighters from Company 24 from left to right: Battalion Chief Ken Fisher, Firefighter Corbett, Firefighter Schneider, Firefighter Riley, Firefighter Laudermilk, Captain Cochran, Fire Chief Joe Pennino



Photo 2: First responders at the incident scene providing medical care to the patient.

