



NEWS RELEASE

January 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parkland County Firefighters Rescue Horses from Icy Water

Two horses that fell into an outdoor swimming pool in - 28 degree weather were lead to a warm barn after firefighters from Devon and Parkland Village, both districts of Parkland County Fire Services, pulled them from the icy water.

"It was a dangerous situation for them to be in, particular with the dropping temperatures," Parkland County Fire Chief Jim Phelan said, adding rescuers were forced into the frigid depths to help bring the horses to safety.

A tree that fell across the fence of the horses' enclosure provided the opportunity for the pair to wander onto the adjoining property. As they crossed the neighbouring yard, the snow covered tarp that protected the pool appeared to pose no danger until the horses fell through it and into almost four feet of icy water.

The owner found the horses and called for assistance from emergency services at 9:15 yesterday morning, said Phelan.

"Firefighters donned ice rescue suits and went into the pool," he said. While some of the firefighters put bridals on the animals, others fashioned a ramp at the shallow end of the pool to lead the horses out. "Once the ramp was made, the firefighters coaxed the horses up it and into a warm barn."

Fourteen firefighters attended the scene, along with members of Parkland County Patrol Services.

Both horses, Mulberry and Jasmine, are recovering well.

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