



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

Fire Department

Sean W. Brown
Fire Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Merrimack River Rescue

CONCORD, NH (July 21, 2021) – At 6:50 p.m. last night, Concord Fire Department was dispatched for a river rescue response on the Merrimack River. Three individuals on innertubes were unable to reach an area of the shoreline where they could safely exit the river. Boat 5 from the Manor Fire Station, under the command of Lieutenant Kris Otterson, located the individuals clinging to a tree trying not to be swept further down the river. Firefighters were able to rescue all three of the distressed individuals. They were loaded into Boat 5 and given personal flotation devices (PFDs) to wear until they reached shore.

Lieutenant Otterson stated that, “All of the people involved were fortunate to have such a positive outcome. This could have been a significantly worse situation because they were not wearing PFDs.”

Fire Chief Sean Brown said, “The rivers that run through Concord can be very deceiving. Recent heavy rains have changed the depth and speed of the rivers. Areas that were, until just recently slow and shallow, are now much deeper and swift moving.”

People enjoying the river should always wear a PFD, maintain awareness of where on the river they are, and have a way to communicate if they need help.

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If you require further information about this incident, please contact Chief Sean Brown at 603-230-3801, or sbrown@concordnh.gov.