

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FIREFIGHTERS PERFORM TECHNICAL RESCUE**

SUFFOLK, VA (May 19, 2017) Suffolk Fire & Rescue crews responded earlier this evening to a technical rescue incident involving a man pinned in a tree approximately 24 feet off the ground.

Emergency Communications received the call at 4:52 p.m. advising of a man that was stuck in a tree after neighbors heard him screaming for help. The incident occurred in the 200 block of North Street in downtown Suffolk, approximately a block from Suffolk Fire & Rescue Station 1.

The adult male victim, believed to be in his late thirties, was on a ladder cutting the tree when a section approximately 20 feet long fell, pinning him from his torso, right arm and right leg at a fork in the tree, suspended almost upside down approximately 24 feet off the ground. Thunderstorms and lightning moving through the area complicated rescue efforts.

The victim received emergency medical assessment and treatment while crews worked to remove the huge section of tree to keep him from being crushed under its weight. Schadel Sheet Metal Works, Inc., of Suffolk, provided a crane to assist in

raising the section of the tree in order to rescue the victim. Another Suffolk business, Suffolk Iron Works, also had a crane on standby in case needed.

Technical Rescue teams from Chesapeake, Virginia Beach and Norfolk also responded to the scene, and Suffolk Fire & Rescue's Technical Rescue team was finally able to safely remove the victim from the tree at approximately 7:07 p.m.

The victim sustained life-threatening injuries and was airlifted by Nightingale, which landed at a nearby park, to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital for treatment.

In addition to the responding units from neighboring jurisdictions, Battalions 1 and 2 responded, as well as Medics 1A and 3A, Rescue 1, EMS-1, Engine 3 and Ladders 3 and 6.

Suffolk Police provided traffic control in the area, and Market Street was closed between City Hall and Chestnut Street for the duration of the incident.

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