

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



City of Duluth - Fire Department

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*For more information contact Kate Van Daele,
Public Information Officer at 218-730-5309*

DATE: 7/30/2021

SUBJECT: Water Emergency/Rescue

BY: Assistant Chief Brent Consie

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Person in Distress

CASE NO.: 21008248

INCIDENT DATE: 7/30/2021

INCIDENT TIME: 1838

INCIDENT LOCATION: 4000 Minnesota Ave

This evening, the Duluth Fire Department responded for the report of a person in distress, clinging to a log in the water. Duluth Fire Department quickly launched marine resources and other land-based fire companies to the area to locate the victim and to make access to him.

The victim was located about one hundred yards offshore in the 4000 block area of Minnesota Avenue. A rescue swimmer from Duluth Fire Department's Rescue Company 1 made his way to the victim from shore on a rescue surf board.

Upon making access to the victim, marine units from Duluth Fire arrived on site. The distressed swimmer was taken aboard Marine 19 for medical evaluation. He was later brought to shore and walked away under his own power. He stated that he did not want to go to the hospital. He was not injured.

Other agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, St. Louis County Rescue Squad and Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service also responded to provide assistance.

Duluth Fire Department has a marine response program that includes Marine 19, a 34 foot fire boat and Marine 1, Duluth Fire Department's personal watercraft. Both units responded and were effective on this incident.

Swimmers should be reminded that even a light offshore breeze can carry a person far enough from shore to become dangerous. Winds can become stronger farther offshore to make the problem worse. Swimmers should always be aware of their swimming abilities and weather conditions before entering the water, even on days with good weather.