

Missoula Fire Department

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Informational Release - For Immediate Broadcast

To: All Media Outlets

From: Bill Bennett, Battalion Chief
Missoula Fire Department

Re: Tree Rescue of Injured Parachutist

Date: 16 July 2022

Location: 1610 Cinnabar Drive

Time of call: 1049 am

Number of units: 3 Engines, 1 Tower Ladder, 1 Battalion Chief, City and U of M Law Enforcement, 1 MESI ambulance

Number of Firefighters: 13

Fatalities/Injuries: 1 Parachutist injured

Additional Information:

At 1049 hours this morning, the Missoula Fire Department (MFD) was dispatched to a parachutist that had crashed into a 100-foot-tall Ponderosa Tree near the 1600 block of Cinnabar Drive. Upon arrival, MFD units found a parachutist trapped in the tree approximately 60-70 feet off the ground. MFD began a coordinated rescue effort to remove the individual from the tree. MFD set up the Tower Ladder to access the tree and used a chainsaw to cut through the branches to reach the individual. Upon reaching the individual, MFD recognized the individual was traumatically injured and a careful removal from both the parachuting harness and the tree was completed. The individual was in stable condition but was transported to a local hospital by ambulance for the injuries they sustained. MFD remained on scene to remove the parachute from the tree before it was returned to the parachutist. No injuries to MFD members or bystanders.

SAFETY MESSAGE*

Recreating in Western Montana is at times unpredictable. Have a plan to call for help should an emergency arise.

