



# Town of Canton

## Fire and EMS Department



### ***PRESS RELEASE*** ***For Immediate Distribution***

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Town of Canton Fire & EMS Department*

### ***Canton's Fire Fighters, EMS Personnel & Police Respond During Holiday Weekend to Emergency Rescue off Collinsville Bridge***

***Collinsville, CT May 29, 2005...*** Just after 9:00 a.m., while helping to prepare the dam for this season's water skiing on the river, William Cirilli of Simsbury suffered serious injuries when he slipped off an elevated bridge platform on Bridge Street, falling 25 feet to a rock cropping below.

Canton Police Sergeant Kevin Witkos performed a primary assessment of Cirilli's condition, removing his own life vest and putting it on the patient in the process. Members of Canton's Fire & EMS Department including Collinsville Fire Captain/EMT Craig Robbins, fire fighter Rick Frenette, Safety Officer David Leff, EMT Brian Little and Deputy Fire Chief Michael Krupa maneuvered out onto a narrow passage way under the bridge to stabilize Cirilli, and secure him onto a backboard and stokes basket to ready him for extrication off the rocks.

Up on the bridge, Fire Chief Richard Hutchings strategized with Krupa to devise a plan that included using both fire apparatus and a life line of fire fighters and EMS personnel to lift Cirilli from the rocks below.

Upwards of 25 volunteer fire fighters and EMS personnel executed the plan using Canton's 100 foot ladder truck, Rescue 9, Engine 6 and a ropes course to maneuver and pull Cirilli up and over the bridge, transporting him to the Life Star helicopter waiting at the far edge of the bridge.

"This is the type of specialized call that we drill and plan for, observed Hutchings, but *fortunately* don't often see. I am very impressed with the professionalism, expertise and teamwork of the men and women in the Fire & EMS and Police Departments. Not surprised.... but nevertheless impressed."

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