



For Immediate Release
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Alaska Air National Guardsmen Brave Weather, Rescue Man ***Snowmachine accident injures rider northwest of Eagle***

CAMP DENALI, Alaska – The Alaska Air National Guard rescued an injured man from his cabin 25 miles northwest of Eagle Monday.

Initial plans to recover the man by both Alaska State Troopers and civilian air ambulance agencies were dismissed due to refueling concerns and ice too thin to travel across by snowmachine on a tributary off the Yukon River.

Troopers contacted the 11th Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Sunday to assist in the rescue.

The RCC tasked the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons with the rescue mission because of their mid-air refueling capabilities but had to hold off on sending assets until Monday morning because of austere weather conditions.

At 8:46 a.m. the Alaska Air National Guard responded with a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and a 211th HC-130 Hercules both with pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron onboard.

Upon arriving at the site the HH-60 Pave Hawk landed at a nearby heliport where pararescuemen onboard disembarked and located the man at his cabin.

According to pararescuemen the injured man was in stable condition, but suffering from a severely swollen left knee and bruising to his right side. The man told pararescuemen that he sustained his injuries after being thrown from his snowmachine when it hit a block of ice hidden in the snow.

The man was loaded onto the HH-60 Pave Hawk and transported to Big Delta because unrelenting weather hindered the pilots from safely flying into Fairbanks.

When the Pave Hawk reached Big Delta the injured man was transferred onto an ambulance and taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital to receive further treatment for his injuries.

“Freezing rain and poor visibility made the rescue more difficult for the pilots, who changed the original rescue to insure the safety of the patient and crew members,” said Senior Airman Zachary A. Kline, 212th Rescue Squadron pararescuemen. “Because of the excellent communication and coordination between the crews of the HH-60, HC-130, 176th Wing command post and the RCC, this mission was a great success.”

One save was awarded to the 210th, 211th, and 212th Rescue Squadrons for this mission.