



Modesto Fire Department

"We Care"

Office of the Fire Chief
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Modesto Firefighters Rescue Woman From Canal

At 8:30 am the Modesto Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a female who lost control of her bicycle and the MID canal that parallels Briggsmore Av, east of Lakewood Ave. Witnesses reported seeing the female enter the canal and not surface. A rescue response brought 1 Engine, 1 Truck, and 1 Battalion Chief for a total of 8 personnel. Modesto Engine 9 arrived with Modesto Police Units to find witnesses stating a female was under water and they could see her. Firefighters recognized a body under the water and alerted incoming units. Firefighters from Engine 9 engaged and entered the water to perform the rescue. One firefighter entered the water wearing life jacket and helmet while the other two assisted from shore. The firefighter was equipped with a rope and located the female under about 3 feet of water. The firefighter was able to pull the victim to the surface and kept her head above water as he swam to the canal bank. The other firefighters assisted lifting the patient and rescuer out of the canal. The patient was unresponsive with no pulse or respirations. Engine 9 is a paramedic Engine Company and immediately began CPR and advanced life support. American Medical Response arrived and assisted with treatment. Crews performed CPR for 30-40 minutes on the side of the canal with the assistance of Truck 1. The patient's heart started to beat approximately 40 minutes after the rescue and crews were able to transport the patient to Memorial Medical Center in central Modesto. The patient was in critical condition upon arrival at the hospital. The successful rescue was made possible by alert citizens recognizing an event and calling 911, MPD officers assisting firefighters, and the quick actions of those on scene.

The Modesto Fire Department would like to remind citizens that the canals are very dangerous with fast currents and steep banks. Please exercise caution around canals.

