

Technical Rescue Crews Demonstrate Their Skills

On June 19th, at approximately 5 p.m. Bothell units were dispatched to a fall patient in the woods approximately 400 yards from the road. A44 arrived to find a juvenile male that had fallen 20-30 feet off an embankment. The patient was assessed and treated for spinal injuries. Engine 42, Engine 45, Medic 47 and Battalion 42 also responded to assist with removal of the patient. Due to the location of the patient, crews were unable to carry him out. Members of our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) used a ladder slide to remove the victim from the bottom of the gully. A ladder slide is a method of hoisting a patient utilizing a rope system and a ground ladder. The patient was placed on a backboard and a ladder was used to slide the patient over the rough terrain. The rope system was used to provide a mechanical advantage and allow crews to hoist the patient up the hill. The patient was safely removed and transported to Harborview for further treatment. This is the third time these unique rescue skills have been utilized to assist crews in their response to emergencies in 2009. In the City of Bothell, there are currently 16 firefighters who have received specialized training in technical rescue. Technical rescue consists of rope, trench and confined space training. These firefighters participate in an average of 60 hours of on duty training each year.