

August 4, 2011

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Burleson firefighters successfully rescued a 25-year-old worker who was trapped on a cell phone tower, more than 700 feet in the air, Wednesday night. The rescue, which included the Crowley Fire Department, lasted approximately seven hours.

DATE/TIME: Mutual aid response to Mid-North Fire Department, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011, 7:48 p.m.

LOCATION: 3740 CR 919, Johnson County

FIREFIGHTERS: Dallas Fowler (6 years with BFD), Bill Buchanan (5 years with BFD), Matt Moseley (4 years with BFD); Lt. Jeremiah Lozier (11 years with BFD); and Crowley Firefighter Gary Sansing (5 years with CFD).

FIRE COMMAND STAFF: Fire Chief Gary Wisdom and Battalion Fire Chief/Operations Tom Foster

The man was reportedly unconscious when the call was made to police. Burleson responded with its technical rescue team. Lt. Lozier was over operations. The first Burleson firefighter, Fowler, was able to reach the worker within an hour of the call. The worker had taken off his safety harness and was lying on a platform on the outside of the cell phone tower.

Two more firefighters –Buchanan and Moseley – made the climb with the rescue equipment. It took them approximately two hours to get to the victim (760 feet up) because they were carrying 1,200 feet of rope. The fourth firefighter – Sansing – was staged below to assist in bringing the worker down from the tower.

Firefighter Fowler was able to get fluids and oxygen to the worker but could not reach him to start an IV. The three firefighters got the worker back in his safety harness, hooked him to a pulley system, and lowered him to the ground.

The firefighters were treated at the scene and released for the remainder of the shift. The worker was transported to Huguley Memorial Medical Center where he is currently in serious condition.

The Burleson Fire Department has 33 career firefighters who man three fire stations. All firefighters are certified in basic operations and 12 are certified in technical rescue.