

## NSBC'S SMALL GRANT (RBS) HELPED SAVE A MAN'S LIFE

On November 29 of last year, at 7 p.m., the Rhinelander Fire Department in Rhinelander, WI received a 911 call of a victim that had fallen into the river while walking on the ice along the shoreline. Two young boys playing in the nearby park had heard his cries for help and made the 911 call.

Upon arrival of Fire Rescue personnel, the boys helped locate the victim. He was in the icy water hanging onto branches of a blown down pine tree.

A rescue boat was sent to an area below the victim; but due to the water conditions and location of the victim (he was near the steep slope of the riverbank) it made getting to his actual position nearly impossible.

All personnel began putting their swift water training into action. This training and some of the equipment was the result of a National Safe Boating Council's Local Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Grant Program. Two personnel quickly prepared with rescue suits, two others for backup prepared lifelines and the last two began securing anchor points/lines around the trees. The personnel in rescue suits walked onto the ice as far as possible – one then stayed on the ice while the other entered the water to help the victim. The victim was then secured with a life vest and line and was brought back to shore.



Time was crucial as the victim was suffering from hypothermia. Once on the shore he was placed on a long board and into a stokes basket, carried up the steep slope and put in the waiting ambulance. Treatment for hypothermia was started immediately. Luckily the park is within minutes of the hospital where more aggressive treatment for the hypothermia was administered.

Both Fire Rescue personnel that were in rescue suits were treated for hypothermia and released to finish their shift.

Due to the training and equipment that the Fire Department personnel received with help of the grant money, this rescue seemed easy. Weather, evening hours, river current, water temperature and steep slope all were major factors in this rescue.

## 2004 - BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

- APRIL**
- 16 - 17 NSBC/NASBLA Reviewer Training
  - 17 NSBC Board Meeting.
  - 18 NSBC Membership Meeting.
  - 18 - 21 SUMMIT (IBWSS)
  - 22 NASBLA Law Enforcement Committee Mtg.
  - 22 - 23 NSBC Instructor Training
  - 23 NASBLA Accident Inv. Committee Mtg.
- events 16 - 23 in Panama City Beach, FL*

- MAY**
- 3 - 4 NMMA American Boating Congress  
*Washington, DC*
  - 16 - 19 WSBA Annual Meeting  
*Washington, DC*
  - 19 - 23 US Power Squadrons Gov. Board Mtg.  
*Pittsburgh, PA*
  - 22 - 28 **National Safe Boating Week** - refer to [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) for specific event locations & details

- JUNE**
- 6 - 8 SSBAA Annual Meeting  
*St. Croix, Virgin Islands*
  - 12 - 16 NABA Annual Meeting  
*Niagra Falls, NY*

- SEPTEMBER**
- 11 - 15 NASBLA Annual Conference
  - 12 NSBC Board Meeting
  - 13 NSBC Member Meeting
  - the above 3 meetings are in Chattanooga, TN*
  - 18 - 22 Boating Access Annual conference  
*Katispell, MO*
  - 23 - 25 Canadian Safe Boating Council Annual Conference  
*Whistler, British Columbia, CANADA*

Please email your boating safety dates to [safe.summit@verizon.net](mailto:safe.summit@verizon.net)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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