



Horse Rescued

LAFD Firefighters, others rescue a horse in Hansen Dam recreation center.

Photos by Juan Guerra

On May 26, LAFD Firefighters safely rescued a horse that was stuck in water and mud near Hansen Dam Aquatic Center.

At 5 p.m. a swift and carefully coordinated rescue ensued near 11798 Foothill Blvd. in Lakeview Terrace, where a large horse was in the water with half of its body covered, and unable to exit on his own

due to three of his legs being stuck in the mud below. More than 40 Firefighters under the command of Battalion Chief Jack Wise, worked from the ground and air to rescue the animal. Approximately 10 of the Firefighters entered the water, concentrating efforts on keeping the horse's head above water during the rescue operation. Firefighters utilized 4x4 vehicles, carriers, backboards that float, and two-line rope systems. The Dart Team, a unique group including a veterinarian, responded tremendously fast and tranquilized the horse with a sedative while firefighters used manpower and rope systems to safely bring him to the shoreline. Then in a coordinated effort, a harness was placed around the weakened horse, and an LAFD helicopter lifted the him to dry land at a near by baseball field.



Firefighters warn people not to ride horses in areas you can't walk. Riverbeds become especially wet, and there are unforeseen hazards lurking under the water. Just six inches of water is enough to knock a person off their feet.

Animal rescues not only save the animal in danger but stop owners and bystanders from endangering themselves in a futile effort to save the animal.

Chief Wise said, "Not only did our Firefighters do an outstanding job, but we want to thank the LA City Lifeguards from the Aquatic Center, General Services Police and others that assisted prior to our arrival."

