

Bend firefighters execute ice rescue of Irish Setter

by Cheryl McDermott

Luckily for dog-owner Colleen Mills and her Irish Setter who was struggling to stay alive after having fallen through the ice of an irrigation pond, Bend Fire Department personnel practice strict protocol of ice rescue techniques on an annual basis and were well prepared to respond to a call for help.

Firefighters responded to 64415 Old Bend Redmond Highway about 6:10 p.m. on Thursday, and found the dog barely managing to hold onto the edge of the ice with its front paws, Captain Jeff Blake reported.

A firefighter in a special ice rescue suit was immediately dispatched out on the ice and brought the Irish Setter to safety.

“Ice covered ponds, canals and rivers are very dangerous,” the captain said. “If a pet or person falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue and call 911 immediately.”

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