



CITY OF VENICE FIRE RESCUE

HELPING HANDS PRESENTATION

On October 24, 2019, at approximately 07:30 a.m., Rob Goodman and Ed Coster met for the first time. This was not your ordinary first meeting. Both men were preparing to launch their kayak and paddle board from Higel Park boat ramp. That is when they noticed a submerged vehicle with only 8 to 10 inches exposed. At that moment it was unsure if anyone was in the vehicle. Mr. Goodman and Mr. Coster knew they had to investigate. As they made entry into the water, a hand reached out from the partially opened passenger side window. The men pulled the driver from the vehicle and onto the shore then activated 911.

Engine 51, Truck 51, Rescue 51, and Battalion 5 were dispatched to a reported sinking vehicle in the area of 1250 Tarpon Center Drive. Upon arrival, Engine 51 advised that a single vehicle was submerged in the water with one person removed from the water. Battalion 5 arrived on scene and established Higel Command and requested Firefighter Behling to search the vehicle for any other patients. Utility rope from the engine was connected to the rear tire axle and Battalion 5 pulled the vehicle back onto the boat ramp. The patient stated that she went in the water around 10 p.m. and was stuck in her vehicle until the two men found and removed her that morning. The patient was transported to Venice Regional for observation. Engine 51 and Truck 51 were released and Battalion 5 remained on scene for the towing service to arrive. Command was terminated with all units were available.

That day Rob Goodman and Ed Coster showed heroic efforts by putting themselves in harm's way to save another person. It is because of their efforts that the driver is alive today. The City of Venice would like to recognize these gentlemen with the "Helping Hands Award."