

# High Springs Firefighters Rescue Cat from Sinkhole

News Release Date

12-17-2023

December 17, 2023 10:00AM

High Springs, FLA – At 7:42AM on the morning of Sunday, December 17th, High Springs Firefighters were dispatched to High Springs' Oak Ridge neighborhood for a report of a cat trapped in a sinkhole.



Upon arrival at the scene, firefighters found a ten-foot by ten-foot sinkhole that had opened near a retention pond, with a small black cat stuck at the bottom of the hole. After quickly assessing the situation, firefighters devised a plan to rescue the stranded cat. To minimize further collapse of the sinkhole, which was actively filling with water from the retention pond, firefighters deployed ground pads made of plywood, to evenly distribute their weight.

Recognizing the need for a non-invasive method to retrieve the feline, firefighters fashioned a snare using a ten-foot section of PVC pipe and rope. This improvised tool allowed them to safely reach and secure the cat without causing any harm.

Sinkholes are a natural phenomenon in Florida, particularly following heavy rains, due to the state's unique geology characterized by porous limestone. Rainwater gradually dissolves the limestone, creating underground cavities that can eventually lead to the collapse of the surface, forming sinkholes. While they are a common occurrence, sinkholes can pose risks to both property and the safety of pets and people.

The rescued cat, affectionately named "Lucky" by the firefighters, emerged from the sinkhole unscathed and, as cats do, promptly darted away to safer, more solid ground.

The heartwarming rescue serves as a reminder of the invaluable role that our firefighters play in safeguarding not only human life but also the well-being of animals. The ongoing training by firefighters in technical and specialized animal rescue is a testament to their dedication.

Before clearing the scene, firefighters taped off the area and notified the High Springs Building Official of the newly formed sink.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Kevin Mangan at 352-681-1907 or [kmangan \[at\] highsprings.gov](mailto:kmangan@highsprings.gov)