PORTAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE
Contact: Troy Haase
Fire Chief
troy.haase@portagewi.gov
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Hunter Rescued After Injured in Woods

Lewiston Township, WI: On Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 12:41 a.m. the Portage Fire Department was dispatched to N8251 Schultz Road to assist the Columbia County Sheriff's Office with locating and rescuing a male patient that was lost in the woods. The patient left to track a deer at about 4:30 p.m. on the west side of the property. The County Sheriff Deputies located the patient's ATV and began to follow his tracks to attempt to find him. They eventually found him in a drainage ditch with a wound to the inside of the right leg. The patient stated he was gored by a buck. He was disoriented and possibly suffering from hypothermia. They provided first aid and attempted to warm him until he could be rescued.

Portage Fire arrived with their UTV and followed a deputy close to the location of the patient. The fire crew and deputies contacted Med Flight and had them land in a field close to the patient location. Once Med Flight landed, the firefighters and deputies packaged the patient in a stokes basket and transferred him to the helicopter. Med Flight staff and rescuers completed packaging and transferred patient into the helicopter. Med Flight made a difficult landing in the snow-covered field to make the rescue possible. The County Sheriff's Deputies were instrumental in saving the patient's life. The Wisconsin DNR and Aspirus MedEvac were on scene as well, but were unable to gain access to the patient.

This rescue was a great example of multiple departments and entities working together to save a person's life. The PFD wants to thank the Columbia County Sheriff's Department, Med Flight, and the firefighters for responding and working together to save the life of one of our citizens.