



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

Malvern's Line Rescue Team Saves Paraglide Pilot

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's line rescue team carried out a technically challenging rescue yesterday (Monday 28th December 2009) when a paraglide pilot attempting to fly from the Malvern Hills got himself entangled and stranded near the top of a tree measuring approximately 20 metres in height .

The line rescue crew based in Malvern, were called at 14:47Hrs on the afternoon and completed the rescue around 16:30Hrs. The officer in charge of the rescue efforts Station Commander Ian Jallands (who is also a qualified paraglide pilot), said;

"As we approached the remote location in our off-road vehicles, the pilot could be seen hanging from the top branches. Due to the height of the stranded pilot and his distance away from the trunk, this incident was never going to be simple -fortunately he was uninjured, which allowed us slightly more time to effect a safe and well planned rescue with the Police and emergency medical teams on standby."

"The specialist line rescue team on scene used techniques they had developed specifically for rescues from trees using; ropes, pulleys and a 9 metre ladder to ensure that the pilot was brought to the ground safely –a little cold and embarrassed perhaps, but thankfully very much alive. Hopefully, the gentleman will not be paragliding the next time cloud cover is likely to obscure his vision!"