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Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005

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### Coast Guard Auxillary Medivac - a big Seldovia THANK YOU!

by Tom Glover

Saturday morning, August 13th . . . it's about 4:30 a.m. . . . Dispatch calls out the Seldovia EMT's and ambulance on a medical emergency. The team responds to a patient experiencing chest pains and a decision is made to medivac the individual to Homer as soon as possible. The next problem . . . fog. Low ceilings and 1/8 mile visibility rule out a fixed wing air medivac so dispatch starts calling medivac helicopters. No go . . . call, after call, not a single chopper can safely make the flight. When you're out of options, the final call goes to the Coast Guard.

Dispatch calls Juneau, Juneau alerts Auxillary Station Homer and Craig Forrest, Public Affairs Officer in Homer, makes the call to his team. Sandy Mazen, head of the flotilla, and coxswain Mike Riley fire up the Coast Guard Auxillary's "SAFEBoat" and head to Seldovia at a blistering 40 knot pace. Forty minutes later, dock in Seldovia, load up the patient and one Seldovia EMT, and head back to Homer. Off load the patient to an ambulance and then turn around and run our EMT back to Seldovia.

A very special THANK YOU to Sandy, Mike and the Coast Guard Auxillary for helping out with this medical emergency. A very special thank you also goes out to Seldovia's EMS team, Homer and Seldovia Dispatch, and the Seldovia Police Department for another job well done!

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On flat water like this, a 40 knot ride has got to be fun.

Coming into the harbor . . . no wake in the harbor either!



That's the EMS team carrying the stretcher down the gangway



Loading the patient onto the boat



Spin her around and head for Homer. The SAFEBoat is 27 feet long and has two Merc 250's hanging off the stern.



That's Seldovia EMT Alex Chartier closing the cabin door. With a patient onboard, they cruise back to Homer at 27 to 30 knots. Think I would want the door closed too . . .



And don't forget the great job our local EMS team did!

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