

Eagle River Man OK After Kayak Capsizes

Monday, 24 May 2010

Jay Barrett/KMXT

A kayaker is alive after a brush with hypothermia in the cold waters off Kodiak Island over the weekend. The Alaska State Troopers report 60-year-old Gale H. Armstrong of Eagle River capsized his kayak in Narrow Strait Saturday afternoon. Troopers report he had been kayaking in the strait near Spruce Island when his kayak overturned. Unable to get to shore or back into the kayak, he called 911 with his cell phone.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers responded with the patrol vessel "Ethics," from the Kodiak harbor, while State Troopers and State Parks Rangers directed them to Armstrong from Miller Point in Fort Abercrombie.

The crew from the patrol boat picked Armstrong up at 4:20 p.m. and transported him to Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center for treatment of hypothermia. A hospital spokeswoman says Armstrong was later released.