

Incident Report – Inc #4158465

Date: 9/26/2024

Time: 1308

Location: 913 Baypoint Dr

Reporting Officer: Wasilewski

Incident Type: Vessel Adrift / Property Protection

Narrative:

During ongoing storm operations, the Madeira Beach Fire Department was operating in storm mode with reduced response protocols in effect due to severe weather and tidal conditions. At the time of the incident, tidal waters had already exceeded seawall levels and were encroaching into residential areas.

The department received a report of an approximately 40-foot sailboat adrift and lodged in the backyard of a residence. A high-water vehicle was deployed to access the area safely. Upon arrival, crews located the vessel in the rear yard of the reported address. The sailboat was found listing and in close proximity to the residence, presenting a risk of structural contact or damage.

Personnel conducted a thorough search of the vessel to check for any occupants or victims. No persons were located on or around the vessel, and the owner was not on scene or immediately identifiable.

During operations, neighbors at the scene approached personnel and insisted that the vessel be removed from the property. Fire department personnel explained that, given the ongoing storm conditions and safety concerns, removal of the vessel was not a viable option at that time. The department's priority was to ensure life safety and prevent further property damage.

To mitigate additional damage to both the vessel and the residence, crews secured the sailboat in its current position using the vessel's existing ropes, straps, and anchor. These measures were taken to stabilize the boat and prevent it from drifting further or impacting the structure.

No injuries were reported, and no additional hazards were identified at the time of the operation. The scene was left secure, and no further fire department action was required.

Prepared by: John Mortellite (10/28/2025)

Deputy Fire Chief

Actions Taken:

- Responded in storm mode using high-water vehicle
- Conducted safety assessment and victim search of vessel
- Addressed inquiries from neighboring residents
- Stabilized and secured vessel using onboard equipment
- Mitigated potential property damage
- Notified dispatch of completion and scene status