

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Bella is safe. The 170-pound dog was rescued from a potentially dangerous situation June 11 by the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department's rope rescue team.

According to Fire Chief Nick Schultz, the golden retriever mix dog's owners, Chris and Stacy Towns, called the Chase County Sheriff's Department to ask for help in rescuing Bella from an abandoned septic tank.

The tank had been washed out due to rain water, Schultz said, and had caved in, with the possibility of more dirt raining down.

The Sheriff's Department contacted the fire department, which sent out a number of volunteers for the rescue south of Enders Reservoir.

Bella was trapped in a passage that consisted of a vertical drop, a horizontal passage and then another vertical drop.

Schultz said the team used a combination of rescue equipment and a makeshift long-handled animal snare to hook Bella and urge her along the passage.

He said he was guessing that she'd been trapped for one-half to one hour before the team arrived at the site.

It took volunteers about two and one-half hours to retrieve the dog and return Bella to her relieved owners.