

Chris Yenne, Fire Chief
Bryan Jennings, Assistant Fire Chief
phone 618-242-6880
fax 618-242-6862
chris.yenne@mtvernon.com
bryan.jennings@mtvernon.com



City of Mt Vernon Fire Department
714 South 42nd Street
PO Box 1708
Mt Vernon, IL 62864

4/26/2025

19th and Waterworks Incident
Press Release

Mt. Vernon Fire Department Responds to High-Angle Rescue at Water Tower

Mt. Vernon, IL – April 26, 2025 – At approximately 1106 AM, the Mt. Vernon Fire Department was dispatched to the area of 19th Street and Waterworks Road in response to a report of a subject hanging from a water tower.

Upon arrival, emergency crews discovered two individuals suspended approximately 135 to 150 feet above ground level. The incident occurred following an apparent equipment malfunction that caused a scaffolding collapse while the individuals were working on the tower.

Due to the height and complexity of the situation, a high-angle technical rescue was initiated. The Mt. Vernon Fire Department requested assistance from the MABAS Division 45/68 Technical Rescue Team, which responded to the scene to support the operation.

Workers utilized tag lines to assist stabilization of the scaffolding, which later allowed them to repair the motor and safely descend to the ground. Further details about the individuals and the cause of the equipment failure are currently under investigation.

The Mt. Vernon Fire Department extends its gratitude to all mutual aid partners involved in the response and commends the efforts of the technical rescue teams for their professionalism and expertise.

Chris Yenne
Fire Chief,
City of Mt. Vernon Fire Department