

Tragedy curtailed: Police, fire dept. locate elderly man

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When an elderly man walked out of McKinley Manor at about 7:20 pm Wednesday, Gallup Police Department officers and Gallup Fire Department firefighters knew they had to find him quickly as temperatures began plummeting.

And they did with the help of a thermal imaging device. The man was found "down and out" at about 10 pm, about 200 yards from his home, GPD Capt. Rick White said.

The temperature was 23 degrees at that time, but the man was alive and transported to a local hospital.

"If there hadn't been a quick response this gentleman would have passed away," White said.

White also noted that the man's family was quick to notify police that he was missing and even volunteered in the search and rescue efforts.