

Taxi driver rescues

Andrew Norfolk

A woman trapped upside down in a sinking car was rescued by a taxi driver who ignored warnings from the emergency services that it was too dangerous for him to enter the freezing water.

James Brown, 41, was driving along an icy road shortly before midnight when he spotted the headlights of a Ford Ka half-submerged in a duck pond in Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire.

Inside was Caroline Saunders, 28, a social worker, who had skidded on black ice and lost control of her car. The car had crashed through a fence and flipped on to its roof before landing in the water, leaving her 16.

Mr Brown did not realise that anyone was still in the car until he dialled 999 on his mobile phone and began speaking to a fire service controller. Only then did he spot Miss Saunders inside the upside-down vehicle.

Though the controller at the other end of the phone urged him not to risk his life by attempting a rescue, Mr Brown said he could see that the car was filling with water and he decided that the emergency services would not 17.

“Another ten minutes and she would have died. I put down the phone and went in. The car was sinking down and half the car was underwater already,” he said. “I could see someone screaming



and banging on the window. It was like a scene from a horror film.”

The door was jammed and the window would not open, so Mr Brown, after trying to reassure the terrified Miss Saunders, flagged down a passing motorist, who found a 18 in the back of his car.

“I went back with it. I shouted to her and she said she was the only one in the car. I was just so 19 that she was talking to me. I smashed the window before dragging the girl out. She was very shaken up, but at least she got out.”

Mr Brown, a self-employed taxi driver for the past six years, who has one child, carried Miss Saunders from the pond and put her in his car with a blanket around her.

20 emergency services reached the pond in the early hours of yesterday, she was taken to hospital and discharged after treatment for shock, cuts and bruises.

Miss Saunders, who was driving home from work when the accident happened, said she had felt certain she was going to die. "It's midnight, there's no one around and I'm trapped, I can't get out. I saw some headlights and I was beeping my horn, banging on the window, thinking, 'Please see me, please see me'." She said that her message to Mr Brown was: "Thank you, thank you so much for just being there and being good enough to 21."



A fire service spokesman said that Mr Brown had performed an exceptional rescue that had averted a potentially 22 incident.

Kies bij iedere open plek in de tekst het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.

1p 16

- A clinging to her seat belt
- B hanging out of the window
- C stuck inside
- D swimming around

1p 20

- A Although
- B Before
- C When
- D While

1p 17

- A be able to find the spot
- B believe his phone call
- C reach the scene in time
- D want to come out

1p 21

- A believe in me
- B come to my rescue
- C drive me home
- D get help for me

1p 18

- A blanket
- B hammer
- C life jacket
- D mobile phone

1p 22

- A brutal
- B criminal
- C fatal
- D minor
- E miraculous

1p 19

- A anxious
- B relieved
- C troubled

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.