

Searchers Find Missing Woman

Staff Report

BRADFORD, Vt. — A canine search and rescue team found an 87-year-old woman yesterday who had wandered away from an assisted-living home on Birch Street in Bradford. Vermont State Police said in a written release they issued shortly before 2 p.m. that Frances McFarland, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, was reported missing.

Ten agencies, including New England K-9 Search & Rescue — which located McFarland —

joined the search, according to Vermont State Police who said in a later written release that the search and rescue team found her at about 3:15 p.m., approximately 1,000 feet from her home.

She was found in the woods barefoot, and appeared to be suffering from hypothermia and possible frostbite, according to police who said because of the deep snow, rescuers used a litter to evacuate McFarland from the scene to a waiting ambulance.

She was taken to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical

Center where she was treated and released, a hospital spokeswoman said last night.

Vermont State Police in Bradford, a state police search and rescue team, a Lyndonville Police Department canine tracking team, the Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Bradford police and firefighters, Upper Valley Ambulance personnel, and New Hampshire State Police, along with New England K-9, participated in the rescue effort.