

Driver goes down embankment, then walks into river

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A 62-year-old Rochester man driving at an “unreasonable” speed went down an embankment off East River Road just north of the South Grand Island Bridge this morning, Erie County Sheriff’s Office officials reported.

The car stopped before going into the Niagara River at about 9:10 a.m., but the man got and entered the water for reasons deputies were still trying to figure out.

Rescuers credited fisherman Bill Bender of Amherst, who spotted the victim from his boat and called 911 while his daughter, Angela, climbed up the embankment to direct rescue crews to the brush-obscured crash site.

The Grand Island Fire Company rigged safety ropes down the 40-foot embankment and entered the water to rescue William Lewek. He was treated by a Twin City ambulance crew for hypothermia before being taken to Erie County Medical Center, where he was in stable condition, officials said.

The investigation is continuing.