

Tsunami warning sirens set for Hug Point, Arcadia Beach

County will provide sirens to fire district

By **BRENNNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

The Cannon Beach Rural Fire District voted to invest in a project to install sirens at Hug Point and Arcadia Beach — two of the most used parks on the North Coast without direct tsunami warning coverage.

The fire district will receive between two to four tsunami sirens for free from Clatsop County Emergency Management's surplus, board member Garry Smith said at the district's monthly meeting Monday. The sirens are compatible with the community warning system, or COWS — a voice warning messaging system known for its distinctive, cow-like siren.

While Smith said he expected delivery from the county to Cannon Beach within the month, they wouldn't be installed for the next two to four years, he said.

"We need to save up more money," Smith said. "We upgraded six sirens in Cannon Beach, which cost about \$50,000, so we depleted our savings."

Waiting at least two years will allow the fire district to incorporate these projects into future budgets, as well as give them time to work with any rules or regulations set by Oregon State Parks.

While the sirens themselves will be from the county, necessary improvements such as buying new batteries, a new voice board and other materials could total more than \$35,000 each.

Installing just the pole can cost up to \$15,000, Smith said.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo
The siren tower near the intersection of Washington Street and Ocean Avenue.

But with multiple years to budget the funds, Smith said he thinks these sirens could make a significant impact.

"It would complete our coverage of the area," Smith said. "It's a mega-saver for the people who use those parks. It's the only area in the tsunami zone that attracts a lot of people not covered by tsunami sirens."

Fellow board member Bob Cerelli said the decision is in line with the fire district's overall goal.

"We are continuing our efforts to keep this community safe," he said.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Firefighters put out a crawl space fire on Sunset Boulevard in Cannon Beach.

Cannon Beach homeowner 'devastated' by house fire

Investigators look into cause for the blaze

By **BRENNNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Joanne Lewis said she started to smell smoke Thursday afternoon when she stepped out of

the shower of her Sunset Boulevard home.

She followed the smell to her sewing room, where she found billowing black smoke.

Lewis said her late husband built the house 21 years ago, and she has been living in it with her dog ever since.

"I'm devastated," Lewis said. "I'm a seamstress. Sewing is my respite. I hope my fabric isn't ruined."

The fire started in the crawl space of the house. A fire investigation team will evaluate the extent of damages and cause of the fire, Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict said.

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