



A member of the Long Beach Fire Department keeps a close eye on the water during the exercise.



First responders prepare to load a mock victim into a waiting ambulance. Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian



Life vests lie discarded in the sand as victims are removed from the water during the training.

AS REAL AS IT GETS

By COLIN MURPHEY
The Daily Astorian

As a Coast Guard helicopter hovered overhead and a lifeboat bobbed in the waters off Long Beach, Washington, spectators gathered a safe distance away as emergency responders “rescued” seven mock victims during a training exercise Wednesday involving multiple local agencies. Organized by the South Pacific County Technical Rescue Team, the drill went off as planned, from the launch of jet skis into the water to the transport of victims into waiting ambulances. If one of the goals was to achieve realism, it worked — several onlookers could be heard asking each other what happened and expressing words of relief when they were told it was just an exercise.



A victim is loaded into an ambulance.



A mock victim is carried out of the water on a backboard.



First responders prepare to launch a jet ski into the surf near Long Beach.



Emergency personnel participate in the surf rescue training.