

Groups give spring break beach safety tips

Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) are conducting a Public Awareness Campaign for regional television, radio and newspaper agencies regarding ocean and beach safety during this week's spring break along the coast.

Thousands of visitors are estimated to visit Oregon beaches during that time, as well as throughout the following months as the weather warms.

While beaches can be fun, relaxing places for families and individuals, it can also bring unseen dangers.

One of the deadliest hidden beach dangers are sneaker waves, which surge high on the beach without warning. They can carry a lot of sand and pull beachgoers into the ocean, thereby making it tough to get out. Don't ever turn your back on the ocean.

Rip currents, also known as "rip tides," are another hazard to avoid. These conditions are when extremely strong currents encroach along the shore and have the potential to "rip" swimmers out to sea. If a person is caught in one, swim horizontal to the beach until able to swim out of it.

Parents should keep chil-



COURTESY PHOTO
Members of WLAD and SVFR work on an ocean and beach safety video.

dren close at all times. If adults see strange water conditions, stay out of the water. Rip currents can be seen as choppy or darker areas of water.

Also, be careful when on high cliffs. Wear proper hiking shoes and don't go too close to the edge — especially when an ear is marked "danger" or has protective fencing.

Understand the local tide times. It's never a good idea to go wading out to a rock or island in the ocean when the

tide is coming in. Beachgoers can quickly become surrounded by water.

Visit a tide table website for tide schedules, if you are planning these activities.

Also, stay off logs in the surf or wet sand. The ocean can pick up small or large logs and drop them down on beachgoers.

Finally, beware of high waves as they can knock beachgoers off rocks, jetties or headlands. Always assume that even if you think you are standing high enough from the ocean, you may not be.

For more information or safety tips, contact WLAD or SVFR.

— Al Krietz, WLAD EMT-P

FloTones to perform at Presbyterian Church

The FloTones will present Listen to Your Children, Deep Songs of Faith and a hymn sing-along at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw at 3996 Highway 101 at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 2.

Featured favorites include This Little Light of Mine, Down to the River to Pray/Lord

Listen to Your Children, Deep River, The Prayer/Lead Us Lord, Hallelujah, He Never Failed Me Yet and more.

Freewill donations for this concert will support the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter as well as the FloTones.

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