

Coast Guard rescues man at Hug Point



Hiker trapped by high tide at Hug Point.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH FIRE AND RESCUE

EO Media Group

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued a man stranded on a rocky edge by the high tide at Hug Point near Cannon Beach Monday, April 10.

Watchstanders at Sector Columbia River in Warrenton were notified of the stranded man by

Oregon State Police at 1:33 p.m. An MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter rescue crew was launched and arrived on scene at 2:16 p.m. The crew lowered an aviation survival technician down to hoist the man off the rocky edge and away from the incoming surf.

The man was flown to Air Sta-

tion Astoria in Warrenton, where he was treated and released by paramedics.

"We arrived just in time as the man was clinging to a rope and was being splashed by incoming waves," Lt. j.g. Jason Weeks, the pilot of the helicopter, said in a statement.

"We remind all beachgo-

ers that enjoy the tide pools and cliff sides along the Oregon coastline to always be mindful of changing tide because it may appear safe one minute but can trap you the next."

Weather and sea conditions on scene were 25 mph winds with moderate rain showers and 18-foot seas.



CANNON BEACH GAZETTE/FILE PHOTO

The siren tower near the intersection of Washington Street and Ocean Avenue.

Two tsunami sirens coming

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

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, April 10. 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.

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.

Cannon Beach homeowner 'devastated' by fire

Faulty furnace to blame

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Seaside and Cannon Beach fire districts responded to a fire at 307 Sunset Boulevard around 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13.

Homeowner 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. The fire appeared to be accidental and caused by a faulty furnace or electrical wiring, Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict said. The only structural damage found was in the crawl space, though the rest of the house has some smoke damage, he said.



BRENNNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Joanne Lewis hugs her friend as firefighters put out the fire in Lewis' home on Sunset Boulevard in Cannon Beach.

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