



Media Advisory for
May 28, 2021

Multi-agency Press Conference and Mock Rescue to kick off Summer with Surf Warnings and Beach Safety Lessons

Summer is approaching and with the warmer weather comes increased risk to visitors along the California coast, where dangerous rip currents can lead to dire circumstances if you aren't informed. The National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Weather Service (NOAA), San Francisco Police Department Marine Unit, Sonoma County Sheriff, and the San Francisco Fire Department are teaming up to help educate the beachgoers about the common hazards on Northern California beaches. These agencies are charged with protecting the people and resources of this coastline and are coming together to give the public information to help them stay safe while on the coast.

WHAT:

PRESENTATION: Representatives from five agencies will address several issues regarding beach conditions and public safety. This includes hazards along the Northern California coast, what to do if you or your dog gets swept out to sea, and how to swim out of a rip current.

MOCK WATER RESCUE: (Weather permitting) San Francisco Fire Department water rescue team, USCG, and GGNRA will conduct a simulated rescue of a swimmer in distress in the surf zone of Ocean Beach at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California.

MOCK HELICOPTER RESCUE: (Weather permitting) San Francisco Fire Department water rescue team and Sonoma County Sheriff Helicopter 10HENRY1 will conduct a simulated rescue of a swimmer in distress past the surf zone of Ocean Beach at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California.

WHO:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service:

Charles Strickfaden NPS Chief of Communications

San Francisco Fire Department:

PIO Lt. Jonathan Baxter

U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Sector San Francisco:

LT Toni J. Zimmerle

Chief, Reserve Force Readiness

NOAA/National Weather Service:

Warming Coordination Meteorologist, Brian Garcia

San Francisco Police Department Marine Unit:

On-site staff

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Paramedic Rescue Helicopter

On site staff

Department of Emergency Management

Dispatch Supervisor Justin Wong

WHERE:

Ocean Beach in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California
Meet at Stairwell 17 on the parking lot's promenade (Lincoln Ave. and Great Highway). May move to surf zone for mock rescue; surf condition may change this.

WHEN:

MAY 28, 10:00 a.m. hard start.

Media is requested to RSVP: San Francisco Fire Department Media Relations Lt. Jonathan Baxter (415) 660-0545 or by email FIREPIO@sfgov.org Speaker system will be available on site.

RUN OF SHOW

Date: May 28th, 2021

Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: Stairwell 17 Ocean Beach (Lincoln Ave at Great Highway)

MASTER of CEREMONY: Lt. Jonathan Baxter, San Francisco Fire Department Public Information Officer, Paramedic, Rescue Swimmer, and 2004 Class A Medal recipient for Ocean Rescue at Ocean Beach.

First Speaker: Golden Gate National Recreation Area National Park Service, Ocean Rescue Supervisor, Charles Strickfaden, Chief of Communications

- Coastal access safety and GGNRA topics

Second Speaker: San Francisco Fire Department, Battalion 7 Battalion Chief

- Speaking on the capabilities of the SFFD as well as Ocean Safety Tips

Third Speaker: United States Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, LT Toni J. Zimmerle, Chief, Reserve Force Readiness

- Boater safety, life jackets, kayakers, windsurfers

Fourth Speaker: National Weather Service (NOAA), Warming Coordination Meteorologist, Brian Garcia

- Weather, cold water, what to expect in 2021

Fifth Speaker: San Francisco SF-DEM Dispatch Supervisor Justin Wong

- Calling 911 and what to tell the dispatcher if they see someone in distress or if someone is having a Police, Fire, or Medical emergency on the beach.

SIMULATED WATER RESCUE: (Weather permitting) San Francisco Fire Department water rescue team, SCSO, and NPS will conduct a simulated water rescue and a mock Helicopter rescue of a swimmer in distress in the surf zone of Ocean Beach at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California.

