



Clallam County Fire District 3

323 N Fifth Ave., Sequim, Washington 98382

360-683-4242, Fax: 360-683-6834

www.ccfcd3.org

Jeffrey C Nicholas

Michael Mingee

Bill Miano

Commissioners

Dan Orr, Interim Fire Chief

NEWS RELEASE

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01/15/2024

14 year old Survives Cold Water Exposure

On Monday, January 15th, at 10:36 am, Clallam County Fire District #3 units were dispatched to a reported ice rescue at South Diamond Shore Lane in Diamond Point. The reporting party on scene stated that someone fell through the ice in the lagoon and was "thrashing" around.

A Battalion Chief, one medic unit, one marine unit, a volunteer aid car, and a rescue truck responded. The technical rescue team was requested, but was canceled before responding.

Battalion Chief 304 was the first District unit to arrive on scene and found a 14 year old male standing in approx 3 feet of water attempting to break the thick ice to exit the lagoon. He had been walking on the ice when it broke, causing him to fall into the cold water. The male fell in approximately 60 feet out from the shore. Upon arrival, he had been in the water 10-15 minutes per family and was able to break ice to move closer to approximately 30 feet from the shore.

The patient was conscious initially and responding to family yelling on shore but within minutes was becoming lethargic and disoriented. Two bystanders were able to throw a buoy with a rope attached to it until it was close enough for the male to grab. Once he grabbed the rope, he was told to spin several times until the rope was securely wrapped around him. The two bystanders and BC were able to then pull the patient up onto the ice and then haul him to the shore. The male was moved quickly to an aid car where rapid rewarming procedures were started due to exhibiting extreme signs of hypothermia and decreased level of consciousness. Life Flight was contacted, and the male was flown from the Diamond Point Airport to Providence Everett. The patient is expected to make a full recovery.

Special thanks would like to be included to the quick thinking bystanders who made the outcome of this incident a positive one.

Questions may be directed to Battalion Chief, Stefanie Anderson at (360) 683-4242.

Department: Clallam County Fire District 3
Contact Person: Battalion Chief, Stefanie Anderson
Telephone Number: (360) 683-4242
E-mail address: sanderson@ccfd3.org



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