



Clallam County Fire District 3

323 N Fifth Ave., Sequim, Washington 98382

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www.ccf3.org

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Commissioners

Justin Grider, Fire Chief

NEWS

NEWS RELEASE

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Local Rescuer's Rappel 160 feet to Aid Injured Dog Owner

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 8:34 am, Clallam County Fire District #3 rescuers were dispatched to 112 Sea Bluff Ln in Monterra for a reported female on the beach with a fractured ankle. As information was updated, they indicated that the 65-year-old had hiked along the beach, looking for her dog that had gone over the cliff the night before. She fell from approximately 10 feet up on the bluff. Additional reports indicated that she had been there for multiple hours and was showing signs of shock. Firefighters from Station 33, 34, 37, multiple volunteer firefighters and a Battalion Chief responded. Clallam 2 Fire & Rescue was requested for mutual-aid providing additional rope rescue technicians. Olympic Ambulance responded to the scene to assist with patient transport.

On arrival, Battalion Chief 304 initiated incident command and assigned resources to gain access to the patient. From the neighboring home, crews anchored a life safety rope system and rappelled approximately 160 feet to the beach. First patient contact occurred approximately 10 minutes after crews arrived on scene. Additional units were deployed to Green Point with the department's Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) to drive the approximately 3 miles of beach to the patient. The access point had been pre-planned and trained on by rescuers previously. Rescuers splinted the patient's injured ankle, provided warming blankets, and extricated her from the beach via the UTV to the awaiting Olympic Ambulance. She was transported to Olympic Memorial Hospital. The UTV then returned to the scene and picked up her husband, the remaining rescuers, and her dog. Unfortunately, the dog had not survived the fall from the night before.

CCFD#3 responder's train and prepare for complex rescue incidents all the time. Specialized tools such as life safety rope rescue equipment, the UTV, and even the inflatable rescue boat were evaluated in the plan to bring this technical rescue to a successful conclusion.

Questions may be directed to Battalion Chief, Chris Turner at (360) 683-4242. Ext. 132.

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Figure 1: Rappel Crew assist's the patient into the UTV



Figure 2: UTV using the beach to access the patient

(Photo Credit John McKenzie)



Figure 3: Edge crew supervising team below