

OCEAN SHORES POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Chief of Police Richard W. McEachin

Date: 3/21/06

On Monday, March 20th, at approximately 3:15 PM, an Ocean Shores Police Surf Rescue Team member was injured during a training exercise on the beach just north of Ocean Shores. FF/Paramedic Capt. Rob McLaughlin, 40 years old, was pitched into the surf when the personal watercraft he and FF/Paramedic Curt Begley were riding capsized.

Begley was able to remain with the personal watercraft but McLaughlin became separated. Sgt. Paul Luck, instructing from another PWC, attempted to pick up McLaughlin but due to breaking surf conditions had to make several attempts. Sgt. Luck signaled to a shore observer that he needed additional assistance and Ocean Shores police and fire personnel responded. Sgt. Luck left his PWC and went to the aid of McLaughlin. McLaughlin was assisted out of the surf when additional responders arrived.

McLaughlin was transported to Grays Harbor Community Hospital and later transferred to Seattle's Virginia Mason Hospital where he is listed in critical condition.

The Grays Harbor Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident as a boating accident.

Due to federal restriction on health information release no additional information is available on McLaughlin's condition.

McLaughlin is one of three Ocean Shores Fire Department personnel on the 12 member Ocean Shores Police Surf Rescue Team. He joined the team in July 2005

Public Information Officer
Lt. Russ Fitts
577 Pt. Brown Ave NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
(360) 289-3331 FAX 289-3333