

02/17/2016

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 12493
Information Contact: David Dickey, Ventura Police Commander / Douglas Miser, Fire Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Ocean Rescue
Date/Time of Incident: February 13, 2016, 4:00 PM
Incident Location: Ventura Pier
Cause: Purposeful jumping off the pier
Injuries: (general) None Reported
Number of Personnel: 4 Fire – 4 Police – 4 State Lifeguards – 2 AMR
Fire/Police Equipment: 2 Engines, 4 Police
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura Police Department, State lifeguards,

Ventura City Fire personnel witnessed a man climb over a fence that restricted access to a closed portion of the pier due to structural damage, and proceed to jump off the South Side of the pier at about 4pm this afternoon. Large surf in combination of a hazardous shoreline condition posed a dangerous condition for anyone attempting to enter or exit the water. State lifeguards and fire personnel responded to his eventual location (he was swept 200 yards downcoast due to currents) and escorted him from the rocks back to the beach.

The 43 year old male (William Stewart) was a vagrant from Santa Cruz California who is currently in Ventura. When asked why he jumped off the pier, he stated, "I just wanted to get in the water". Ventura Fire and AMR personnel medically evaluated the man and he was found without injury and had no intent to hurt himself. Ventura Police had also arrived to assist with the investigation.

The subject was arrested a few days ago in Ventura for being under the influence of methamphetamine in public. At the conclusion of today's investigation, Ventura Police cited him for breaking a municipal code for trespassing and jumping off the pier, which is prohibited in the City of Ventura.

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