

Ventura reminds beachgoers to get informed and be safe; National Beach Safety & Rip Current Awareness Week, June 5 – 12, 2016

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06/01/2016

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2016

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Image available: Rip Currents

Video available: [Ocean Rescue Training](#)

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As a coastal community, the City of Ventura and Ventura City Fire want to remind beachgoers about important safety issues while in and near the aquatic environment. National Beach Safety & Rip Current Awareness Week, June 5 – 12 is an opportunity to remind locals and visitors how to safely enjoy Ventura's coastline and beaches.

According to the United States Lifesaving Association, rip currents account for more than 80% of rescues performed by beach lifeguards. Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from the shore – typically found near coastal structures such as jetties and piers. All Ventura beaches have rip currents throughout the year because our coastline receives both north and south swells.

The USLA recommends the public follow these safety precautions to stay safe:

Learn to swim

Swim near a lifeguard

Never swim alone

If in doubt, don't go out

Swim sober

Don't dive headfirst (protect your neck)

Don't fight the rip current (Know how to swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim towards the shore.)

If you see someone in trouble, get help from a lifeguard, and have someone call 9-1-1

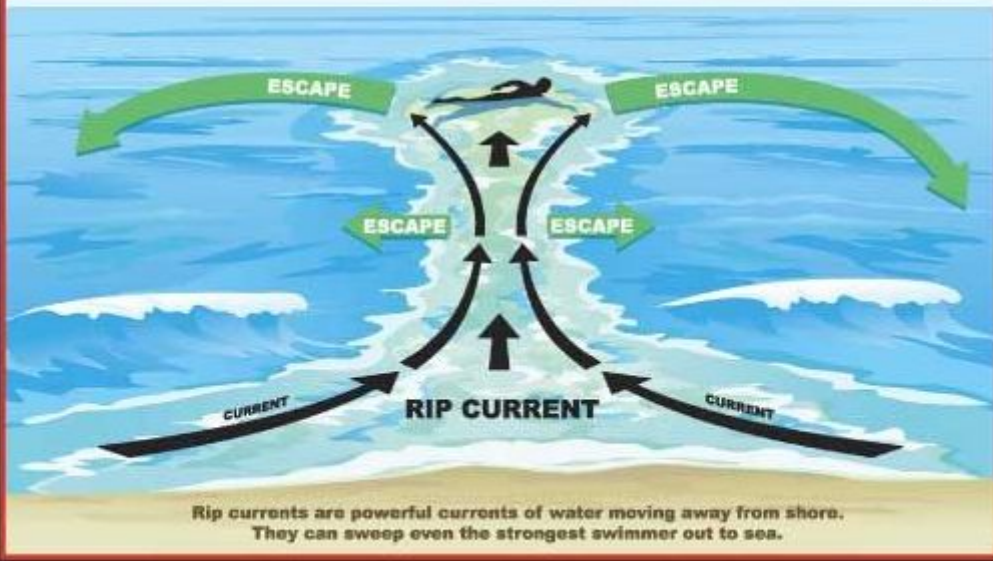
The Ventura City Fire Department's 15-member Ocean Rescue team partners with the Ventura Port District, Harbor Patrol and the California State Lifeguards to provide coastal rescue capabilities along the 6 miles of Ventura's coastline. The Ocean Rescue team responds to swimmers, surfers, kite-surfers and others in distress as well as boats aground, etc. In 2015, the Ocean Rescue team performed 49 rescues in the city of Ventura, with a majority of those for rip current situations.

For more ocean safety tips and rip current information, visit www.usla.org.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website www.cityofventura.net ---###---

RIP CURRENTS

Break the Grip of the Rip!



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore.
They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.