

SARSAT Weekly Rescues Report for period 2 March to 8 March 2012.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking System
Rescues, Eight.

Beacon ID - 2DCE643A2EFFBFF **Home Port - Seminole, FL**

DISTRESS. On 1 March 2012 at 19:15 UTC, the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz distress signal at 25 30.1N, 081 17.1W, approximately 20 NM SE of Everglades Airport, FL. The owner of the sailing vessel sent a text message to his wife by SPOT stating "help not injured but in distress call Tow Boat US" when his vessel de-masted. The owner of the vessel also activated his EPIRB when the SPOT coordinates failed. Coast Guard District Seven (CGD07) received both alerts and correlated the 406 MHz signal with the initial SPOT report. CGD07 contacted the wife of the registered beacon owner after they were alerted through the SARSAT system. The wife informed CGD07 that she had called 911 and was transferred to Sector Saint Pete after she received the SPOT distress from her husband stating that he needed a tow. She had also called Tow Boat US to assist. CGD07 called Sector Saint Pete and informed the owners that Sector Key West (SECKWT) was handling the case. CGD07 diverted AIRMIA MH-65 to the SARSAT coordinates and it remained on scene until the tow boat arrived. The tow boat took disabled vessel in tow with the two survivors aboard. No injuries reported.

2 SARSAT RESCUES

Beacon ID - 2DCE6DB37AFFBFF

On 1 March 2012 at 2345 UTC, the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz signal at 34 13.0N, 117 28.2W, approximately 10 NM NW of San Bernardino, CA. Two men were hiking in the San Bernardino National Forest when one of the hikers fell and injured his leg. The hikers activated their PLB when they were unable to walk back together. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) received the first alert from the SARSAT system and contacted the California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA). CAL EMA then contacted the County Sheriff's department which rescued the hikers. Both hikers were treated for minor injuries.

2 SARSAT RESCUES

Beacon ID - 2DCE685F10FFBFF

On 3 March 2012 at 1217 UTC, the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz signal at 23 07.52N, 084 52.30W, approximately 55 NM NW of Pinar del Rio, Cuba. The sailing vessel Hokulani was severely damaged due to heavy seas. The Master was unsure if he could make it back ashore safely and manually activated his EPIRB. The Master then contacted Coast Guard District 7(CGD07) to report the situation. CGD07 received the first alert from the SARSAT system and directed Air Station Miami to launch a HC-144 aircraft and requested assistance from the AMVER vessel C/S Norwegian Star. The HC-144 and the C/S Norwegian Star arrived on scene and the C/S Norwegian Star rescued both people onboard the Hokulani. The C/S Norwegian Star returned both survivors to Tampa, FL with no reported injuries.

2 SARSAT RESCUES

Beacon ID - 2DCC5EE5A6FFBFF

On 5 March 2012 at 0941 UTC, the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz distress signal at 46 11.0N, 124 07.0W, 13 NM from Astoria, Oregon. A Columbia River Bar Pilot fell overboard while transferring from the M/V Navos Ionan to her pilot boat the Chinook. The Chinook crew threw an EPIRB overboard when both vessels had lost sight of the overboard pilot. The Chinook also notified CG Station (CGS) Columbia River of the emergency situation. CGD13 received the first alert from the SARSAT system and contacted CGS Columbia River to forward them the SARSAT coordinates. CGS Columbia River forwarded the SARSAT coordinates to the Chinook which used them to locate and rescue the overboard pilot. The pilot was treated for hypothermia by local EMS.

1 SARSAT RESCUE

Beacon ID - 2DCE4E0CE4FFBFF

On 6 March 2012 at 0948 UTC, the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz distress signal at 70 29 29N, 154 50 20W, approximately 62 NM SE of Barrow, Alaska. The driver of a disabled snow machine was not carrying an emergency beacon. A convoy of 9-10 trucks traveling overland from Deadhouse to Barrow, Alaska observed the individual on the disabled snow machine. One of the truckers activated his PLB when he recognized the snow machine driver was showing symptoms of hyperthermia. The trucker called Barrow Police via SATPHONE to report the situation. North Slope Borough (NSB) Search & Rescue received the first alert from the SARSAT system and responded with a B412 helicopter which

flew to the snow machine driver at the provided SARSAT coordinates. The snow machine driver was flown to Barrow and released to medical personnel.

1 SARSAT RESCUE

Total number of rescues for FY 12: 83

Total number of rescues for the calendar year 2012: 26

Significance: The SARSAT system protects life and property in support of the nation's commerce and transportation systems. (Steve Roark 301-817-3896)