

SARSAT Weekly Rescues Report for period ending September 22, 2011.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking System Rescues-Six. The six rescues were in four incidents.

The first incident occurred on September 16 when the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz PLB distress signal less than 1 mile southeast of Chariot, Alaska. The driver of an all terrain vehicle activated his PLB when he ran out of gas. Alaska Rescue Coordination Center received the SARSAT alert and passed the information on to North Slope Borough (NSB). NSB dispatched a ground team out of Point Hope. The ground team located the driver and returned him to Point Hope. No injuries were reported. One SARSAT Rescue.

The second incident was on September 17 when the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz PLB distress signal approximately 30 miles south of Barrow, Alaska. An individual activated her PLB when her companion was unable to reach their campsite. Alaska Rescue Coordination Center received the SARSAT alert and contacted North Slope Borough (NSB). NSB dispatched a helicopter to the location coordinates received by SARSAT. The helicopter was unable to reach the site due to extreme weather conditions. Weather conditions improved the following day and NSB was able to rescue her with no reported injuries. One SARSAT Rescue.

The third incident was on September 18 when the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz PLB distress signal about 28 NM southwest of Fort Meyers, Florida. The crew of the fishing vessel Fitter activated their PLB when their vessel became disabled. Coast Guard District 7 received the SARSAT alert and contacted Station Fort Meyers Beach, who launched a small boat. The Fitter also broadcasted a Mayday call. A Good Samaritan vessel, the Totally Uncorked, received the Mayday and established communications with the disabled vessel. They passed to the Coast Guard that the Fitter was anchored and incapacitated due to a failed alternator. The Fort Meyers CG boat arrived on scene and stayed with the Fitter until a commercial towing service arrived. Three SARSAT Rescues

The fourth incident was on September 22 when the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz PLB distress signal 74 miles due west of Colorado Springs, Colorado. A hiker activated his PLB when he felt endangered due to heavy snow fall. Air force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) contacted the local county sheriff after they were alerted by SARSAT. The county sheriff organized a rescue team and requested to be notified of any change in position. The 69 year old, an experienced hiker was located, checked by the local medics and released. No injuries were reported. One SARSAT Rescue.

Total number of rescues for FY 11: 220

Total number of rescues for the calendar year 2011: 145

Significance: The SARSAT system protects life and property in support of the nation's commerce and transportation systems.