

Coastguard Awards of Excellence – NOMINATION FORM

Coastguard Rescue of the Year		
Award Level (circle one)	National	
Name(s)		
Unit		
Region		
Contact Details (for best person to contact)	Name	
	Email	
	Mobile	
Rescue Details		
Date of Rescue		
Provide a time-lined account of the rescue.	<p>The pagers were initiated at 1454pm by police, a waka ama had been found on the beach in rough conditions with no paddler to be seen. A group of people passing by called the police and shortly afterwards friends of the paddler arrived as he had no called in to work as he was scheduled to. They confirmed he was missing. The crew were paged and being a working day crew were at work and had to drive in. By 1501 the first crewman arrived and by 1504 a full crew was heading to the CRV with the skipper being briefed by the duty officer. The CRV departed at 15:09 and the missing paddler was located at 15:18 he was brought back to the base at 15:30. He had been in the water for 90 minutes and had drifted almost 3km from where he had tipped out of his waka ama.</p> <p>The rescue time from the CRV departure to pickup was 9 minutes.</p> <p>Although they had been in the water for a long period he was only mildly hypothermic and warmed up quickly. Although he was wearing a PFD, the recent heavy rains meant that there was a lot of debris and less buoyancy. As a result he was pushed under a number of times and was struggling to keep afloat by the time the CRV had picked him up.</p>	
Provide confirmation that nominees are current volunteers with Coastguard and crew have completed a minimum of COC Operational Certificate or equivalent for air patrol, incident management team or communications.	All of the crew on the vessel and in the operations centre were current volunteers and have the minimum requirements at the time of the rescue. The Skipper was XXXX	
Considerations for Selection		
1. Show how the rescue used risk evaluation and management.	<p>The crew were briefed and a risk matrix completed with a highlighted note about debris in the water –which would also make the search harder. The duty officer and CRV crew concurred that time was critical and a plan to get surf doing a shoreline search was already being planned with police (waiting for surf arrival).</p> <p>The tide was assessed as outgoing with a 1.5m -2m swell running</p>	
2. Describe how the search area was determined and search techniques used.	<p>A decision based on local knowledge from the crew and base concurred that a run down the tideline towards the most likely target area and commence a creeping line search along the tideline. As the CRV was heading to the area a call from the police (using the kite surfer preplan) on the hill at an observation point identified something orange or yellow in the pile of debris, although not certain. Using the directions the CRV closed in on the area which was within the target area suspected and were able to see the paddler hanging onto a piece of debris again. The CRV was maneuvered for the pickup and the paddler brought onboard the CRV.</p>	
3. Describe the collaboration between the incident management team and	<p>The IMT and police quickly identified the seriousness of the problem with activation of a callout almost immediately. The decision with the IMT and police in conjunction with the Skipper as to where the most likely target area was, this was based on good strong local knowledge of the area and conditions that were prevalent on this day.</p>	

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<p>vessel/aircraft crews and/or other SAR partners.</p>	<p>The kite surfer preplan was originally developed in 2008 after a series of kite surfers were rescued after losing their kites and boards during that summer. The plan identifies the strong outgoing current and its tideline as to where most floating objects will go. The plan is based on a panoramic photo of the area and past the lighthouse. This plan is broken in sections to allow Police with no local knowledge to give directions to Coastguard and surf of where they may see anything. This plan has been responsible for saving at least 3-4 lives since its inception.</p> <p>The second part of the plan involves police officer going to a lookout up the hill that overlooks the beach and surrounding area.</p> <p>Without the use of the police observer and the preplan and the regular training that the unit does with the police there would have been a great deal of time lost in communication. The ability of the police to communicate directly with its own IMT and the coastguard IMT was a definite timesaver.</p> <p>The preplan and the local knowledge were definite critical elements to the successful rescue.</p>
<p>4. Show evidence of debrief and identification of learning for future improvements of performance.</p>	<p>The rescued kayaker was interviewed at the base as to the outcome and how he landed up where he did to confirm the assumptions that had been made.</p> <p>A debrief was held in the base immediately after the incident and key issues identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delay in activating coastguard – identified as job has to come through comms in Christchurch to SAR coordinator – 10 minute delay this was accepted as reasonable. 2. Police on the hill Preplan – still effective <p>Incident was considered to be a good reflection on current training with crew all knowing their positions on the CRV and tasks.</p> <p>The Tracplus data has been useful in determine the actual timeframes.</p>
<p>5. Describe how crew resource management was undertaken by the Master or others.</p>	<p>Crew management was to have as many eyes on the water as possible and the decision to take more than the normal crew of 4 as additional searchers was beneficial and appropriate given the search area and amount of debris which would have made an extensive search difficult.</p> <p>The master took advice from crew and all agreed on the target area and the tide line scenario from previous rescues. The strong outgoing tide also suggested this was going to be the most likely scenario.</p>
<p>6. Describe the communication processes between the vessel/aircraft and the incident management team.</p>	<p>The communication was successful and the possible key element to the quick resolution of this incident. The Police were relying information to the CRV and IMT effectively and efficiently, with the CTV crew in full contact with Base and the IMT to concur.</p> <p>Again the weekly training on the CRV provided for rapid response clear communication and a successful outcome.</p>
<p>7. Describe the care provided for victims, bodies, people rescued.</p>	<p>The paddler was checked out by crew and was deemed to have only very mild hypothermia but was reasonably exhausted. Once again our local Restaurant provided a very sweet and warm hot chocolate for the paddler which gave him a good energy boost as well as warmed him up. However it was acknowledged that he had been through a pretty severe event and was close to drowning. The IMT managed to get a hold of one of the paddlers close friends whom was advised of the situation and to keep a close eye on his condition over next few hours.</p>
<p>8. Show evidence of forward planning for the next search area, relief crew, or other considerations for the next operational period(s).</p>	<p>The IMT had no time to consider this as the event was to short lived</p>

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9. List any other contributions or considerations that support this nomination.	<p>This rescue is not the most daring nor is it the most challenging but the result was still the same – saving a life at sea. What makes this rescue more important than the others we have done this year is that in its simplicity lies the complexity of everything we do from training to IMT to working with police to planning (Preplan) to risk and resource management- all this in 9 minutes.</p> <p>For the crew to have done what they did took hours of training , hours of SAR exercises with police , years of development and tweaking of the pre-plan, and combined knowledge of local conditions to get this right.</p> <p>Our paddler had been in the water for over 90 minutes and was struggling to keep afloat he was getting tired and fatigued from fighting with the debris. From the conditions of the day and the amount of time already spent struggling in the tide line, there is little doubt that the outcome could have been much worse.</p>		
Nominated By:	Name:		Date:
	Position:		
Photo Attached (required for all nominations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		

