



For All Who Play In The Oregon Surf

Rip Currents

Rip currents are found on all beaches where waves occur. The ocean dumps water on the shore. When the water rushes back out to sea it can form a narrow current of water that moves faster than even the strongest swimmer. It is like a treadmill that you cannot turn off. The best defense is to learn to recognize a rip current and stay clear of it. If you should get surprised and caught in one...

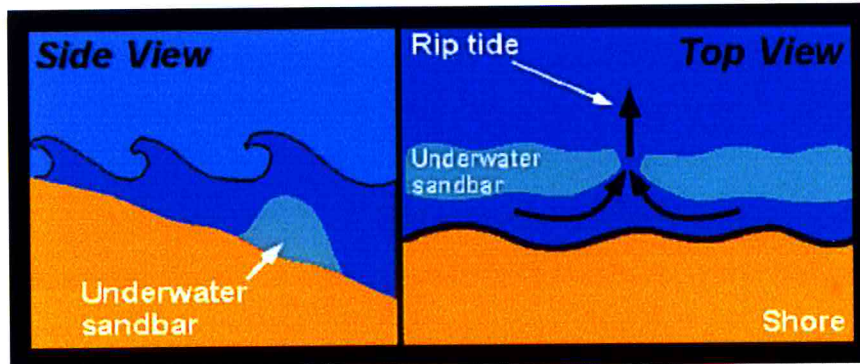
***NEVER* SWIM AGAINST THE CURRENT. YOU WILL LOSE!**

STAY CALM! CALL FOR HELP IMMEDIATELY!

FLOAT WITH THE CURRENT

Wave your arms. This is an international sign for help.

Swim parallel to shore until you are out of the current, *then* swim to shore.



Identifying a Rip Current

SMOOTHER SURFACE

With much smaller waves, alongside white water waves sometimes crossing over each other in opposite directions.

RIPPLED LOOK WHERE WATER IS NOT BREAKING

Sometimes you see debris floating *out* to sea.

DARKER COLOR INDICATING DEEPER WATER

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE DO NOT BECOME A VICTIM TOO!

CALL 911 Yell instructions on how to escape. Point out to the victim to swim **north or south...the shortest way out of the rip.**