

The life ring is the least efficient of the devices. It should be used only for persons very close to shore. If you try to swim out with it, it has a heavy drag and if you try to throw it the wind will take it off target. The "hot dog" is much better. Put the strap over one shoulder and let it trail along behind you while you use both arms to swim. Do not get near enough for the victim to grab you, give him the hot dog to grab, then signal to the shore to start bringing in the line, as you swim in.

On shore it is very important that you wait for the signal and you do not pull the line too fast! This could pull them under. Reel in slowly. Also, to help the rescuer, have people on the beach hold the line up above the water as the rescuer is swimming out--loosely enough so that the line is let out as the rescuer needs it. This will cut down on the drag.

Millington demonstrated the surf board which is kept in the long box beside the steps. You can probably get out farther with this than with the other two devices. Note the direction of the pull and try to enter the water "upstream" enough so that you will end up in front of the victim. Holding the board sideways to the waves, shoreward of the victim because the waves tend to push him toward the shore, have him grasp the board [once again: NOT YOU] so that his upper body is across the board, or mount the board lengthwise if he is able. You should then be able to bring the board to shore.

Rescue Squad Captain, John McCormick and EMT Corinne Geer were on hand with the ambulance to go into action if needed. Their presence added emphasis to the need to call them in the event that a rescue is made. Even the victim who assures you he's all right can suffer after-effects from ingesting salt water.

Reminder: Ammonia for the treatment of man-of-war stings is kept in the shed beside the steps. [A good way to administer this is to cover the area to be treated with a towel and pour the ammonia onto the towel. This saves your hands].

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Once again we have included material at the back of this issue concerning what to do in case of hurricane. We recommend that you detach it and keep it for handy reference.

Mayor Hanan opened the June 12th meeting on hurricane preparedness by telling the audience that this may be "the most important hour you can spend in Pine Knoll Shores!" He said that 1985 was a record year for tropical storms. There were 11 in all and 7 of them were classified hurricanes. It also saw the largest evacuation, the worst damage and lasted the longest. Right into November.

Dr. Ned Smith, Director of the Marine Resources Center, then offered information concerning the hurricanes themselves. He pointed out the counter clockwise motion of the winds with an eye in the middle. It became obvious that the most dangerous part is the right front quadrant when the hurricane hits land. That is the section which is pushing the ocean and the rain up onto the land. If we are hit by the left quadrants the winds have been moving over land to some degree and lessened thereby. The biggest danger is the surge and when the hurricane hits at high tide the surge is awesome. Hurricanes also carry with them tornadoes and water spouts to add to the danger. He traced the paths of some of the hurricanes including the one in 1984 which reversed direction. This only emphasized the importance of early and complete preparation when warning is given because the final path of the hurricane cannot be predicted.

Joe Henyecz, Chairman of Civil Preparedness for the town, outlined local plans as did Gil Millington. These were printed in the Shore Line last month but if you do not have a copy they are available at the Town Hall.