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# COASTSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Coastside Fire Protection District & Pillar Point Harbor Patrol Issue Labor Day Beach Safety Message

**El Granada, CA**— An intense heatwave is impacting much of Northern California through the Labor Day weekend. The Coastside Fire Protection District and Pillar Point Harbor Patrol are issuing a warning to people who intend to spend time at the San Mateo County coast.

“San Mateo County is one of the most beautiful places to enjoy the water and the coastline in California,” says Deputy Pillar Point Harbor Master Cary Smith. “But it’s also one of the most dangerous.”

Many of the beaches in San Mateo County are difficult to access. That means, in an emergency, it can take first responders more time to reach a patient’s location. Often, people who call 911 have difficulty describing their location. This can also impact emergency response times. Always know your location.

The San Mateo County coastline contains many steep pocket beaches with dangerous rocks and rip currents. Pocket beaches are beaches that are surrounded by cliffs, and are usually not patrolled by a lifeguard. They are popular among visitors, but contain many hazards, and are challenging for first responders to access.

The weather and the waves change throughout the course of the day. Avoid standing on wet rocks, and never turn your back on the ocean.

Smith says, “We want you to have a happy and safe weekend, and we want you to return safely to your loved ones.”

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