



# 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!**

Most drownings occur because no one called for help in time. Remember, rescuers *cannot* buy more time to get to you but they *can* go back home knowing that you are safe.

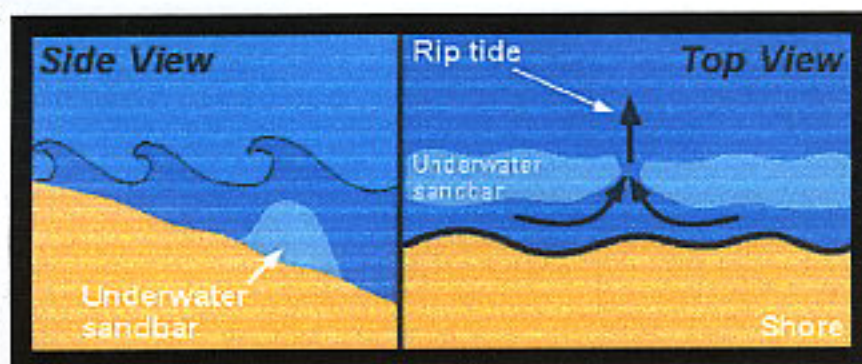
### **FLOAT WITH THE CURRENT**

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.

### **NEVER...**

Let children play in the surf alone & No more than knee deep! Sneaker waves & rip currents can *take* them faster than you can *reach*



### **WARNING**

The temperature of Oregon's water is generally between 45 & 60 degrees. Hypothermia can set in after just a few minutes in the water. Cold water saps your strength.

## 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. There may be a lot of sand stirred up in the water.

### **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.