

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIREFIGHTER ON VACATION SAVES A LIFE

SUFFOLK, VA (September 22, 2015) Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel are trained to be ready at a moment's notice to jump into action and respond to any situation. Lieutenant Taz Lancaster recently used his life rescue and lifeguard skills to save a man's life.

In late August 2015, the 17-year veteran of Suffolk Fire & Rescue was on vacation in North Carolina and decided to catch some good waves in the Buxton area. Lancaster had paddled out and forgot he had his phone in his pocket. He started to come back in to shore to drop the phone off when he noticed an unattended surf board. Lancaster scanned the immediate area and noticed a man floating in the water with only his head showing. The man, in this mid-40's, told Lancaster that he had hit his head on his surfboard and felt as if he were paralyzed. Lancaster brought the victim back to shore and used his surfboard as a backboard due to the nature of the injury. Once on shore, the victim's neck was stabilized and Lancaster called local authorities who came and airlifted the injured man to the hospital where he was hospitalized for several days and then released with a full recovery expected.

Lancaster credited his years of training in helping him to analyze the situation and respond. Lancaster said, "This was just like another day on the job. I was glad to be able to help out as someone else might not have known how to handle the situation without causing more damage to the victim."

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Chief Cedric Scott remarked, "I am very proud of Lt. Lancaster. He is a shining example of the dedication, professionalism, and heroism displayed by the men and women of Suffolk Fire & Rescue. I applaud his lifesaving efforts and I am so happy that he was there in a time of need and that his actions saved a life."

Lancaster was born in Virginia but grew up in Southern California where he developed a love of surfing. He came to the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department after serving as a volunteer in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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