DATE/ TIME OF INCIDENT:  8/3/2019  4:17 pm
DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE:  8/8/2019  8:10 am
NATURE OF STORY:  Sheriff’s Deputy Jumps in Willamette River to Rescue Woman
LOCATION:  Willamette River between Jasper and Clearwater

DETAILS:

On August 3, 2019 shortly after 4:00 pm, Deputy Codey Crawford was assisting with a traffic stop when the Sheriff’s Office received a report of a woman nearby in the Willamette River who was reportedly floating in an inner tube when it overturned. She was able to cling to a downed tree in the river as the current moved quickly around her.

Deputy Crawford was the first to arrive on scene ahead of Marine Patrol deputies and local fire departments equipped with boats. He could see the woman was having a hard time keeping her head above water, and could hear her pleas for help from the shore. Rescue boats were still several minutes from arriving.

Realizing that something needed to be done immediately, Deputy Crawford grabbed a life jacket and a bag of safety rope and entered the river. He began swimming towards where the woman was last seen holding onto the log in the middle of the river. Before he was able to reach her, she lost hold of the log and was swept underwater into the river current. She resurfaced after being caught underwater briefly and was able to make her way to the far side of the river where Deputy Crawford stayed with her until a Eugene / Springfield Fire Water Rescue boat arrived to transport them to the other side of the river. We are thankful that the woman alerted Deputy Crawford to where she was so he could assist. Had she not resurfaced, Deputy Crawford was already in the water and would have been able to get to her faster in that position than from the shoreline.

A huge thank you to the Eugene / Springfield Fire, Pleasant Hill Fire and Rescue, and Lowell Rural Fire Protection District for responding!

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Sent by:  Sergeant Carrie Carver  541-682-4179