

## ***St. Lucie County Fire District News Release***



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### **Off- Duty St. Lucie County Firefighter Saves Man from Drowning**

*St. Lucie County, FL* – Firefighter/EMT Paul Ernsberger was at the right place at the right time for one swimmer from Orlando this past Saturday, May 12.

Ernsberger was at Pepper Park Beach, in the 3300 block of North A1A, when his son noticed a swimmer out about 75 to 100 yards from shore. He mentioned to his dad that the man seemed far out. Ernsberger agreed, and before long the man was waving his hands and yelling help. Ernsberger went into action, swimming out to the man and bringing him back to shore.

“The swimmer was blue, out of breath, and unable to make it to shore, but soon after getting to shore he started to come around,” said Ernsberger. “He had felt a rip current pull him under.”

“The real credit goes to my son, Tristan, if he had not seen the man out there, I may not have seen he was in trouble and been able to help,” explained Ernsberger.

The St. Lucie County Fire District transported the man, in his late 30s, to a local hospital in stable condition.

FF/EMT P. Ernsberger