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Emergency 911

Media Information Release

Date: 07-21-2011
Type of Incident: Bear Call
Location: Stedman Street and Park Avenue

At 1:20 PM dispatch received a call regarding a bear with a plastic jug on his head in the area of the Salvation Army on Stedman Street. Officers responded, but were unable to locate the animal.

At approximately 2:13 PM dispatch received a second call for the same bear in the area of Peterson Street and Park Avenue. Officers responded and located the bear and attempted to contain it. The bear still had a plastic jug on his head and had become increasingly disorientated. At one point, the bear climbed from a 12-foot retaining wall onto the roof of a home on Park Avenue. The animal eventually made it back to the retaining wall and continued to walk along the length of it.

The Ketchikan Fire Department responded with a ladder truck and helped position an officer near the bear with a tranquilizer gun. The bear began to move toward where officers were posted to contain him. Officers deployed lethal force, and the bear eventually fell off the wall.

We believe this is the same bear that has become habituated to garbage left out by citizens in the area of Woodland Avenue, Deermount Street, and East Fifth Avenue in the last few weeks. The bear had been shot with a beanbag round on at least one other occasion and has continued to visit this particular neighborhood.

Please remember to keep your food trash picked up and only put it out the morning of trash pick-up day. Once a bear locates a food source, such as garbage, he will continue to return to that source. This puts all citizens, particularly young children who may be playing in the area, at great risk. While it is regretful to have to destroy an animal like this, it is the job of our department to protect our fellow citizens.

All charges reported in this media release are only accusations.
All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

END OF PRESS RELEASE