



### President Reduces Amount Homeowners Owe

JUN 9, 2011

If you owe less than \$729,000 on your mortgage, you probably qualify for the President's Making Home Affordable Program. Under this plan, the government will cut your mortgage payments by up to \$12,000/year. If you are a homeowner and you haven't looked into refinancing recently, you may be surprised at how much you can save.

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## Coast Guard warns of risky Lk. MI spots

Including the Grand Haven pier

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By Crystal Hilliard

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. (WOOD) - Because six people already have died in West Michigan waters this summer, the Coast Guard took a 24 Hour News 8 crew out on Lake Michigan to show the spots to avoid.

In Grand Haven, the most dangerous place in the water is near the pier, Petty Officer Andrew Zylinski said Wednesday.

"It's not a safe practice, but a lot of people like to (jump off the pier)," he said. "So, what happens is, the water rushes along here and rips the people out of the water."

Since 1993, 25 people have experienced some scary moments while tangling with the monstrous waves off the Grand Haven pier.

Of those, 19 were rescued. The remaining six drowned.

If swimmers insist on jumping, no matter how strong they are, officials recommend wearing a life jacket.

There are few hanging near the pier, on the beach.

Teona Huff and Teara Thomas wore them to jump in.

"I'm scared the current's gonna take me under," said Huff, before she jumped in Lake Michigan.

Zylinski said the majority of rescue calls come from the pier area, because people don't understand how strong the current pulls and pushes anyone in it.

"I've kinda like, lost wind sometimes, you just gotta keep going," Kevin Thestorm said. "You lose your breath then you gain consciousness again."

Thestorm spent the evening jumping off the pier into the waves with his friends. The group is comprised of strong swimmers, he said, but they don't recommend jumping to anyone who isn't comfortable.

Watching Out For You

Safe Water  
WOOD TV8 reminds you to watch your children around swimming pools, lakes and streams.

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Watching Out For You

Safe Water in Michigan  
Read more about water safety, swim lessons and how to keep your family protected this summer.

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