

Niagara police warn against misuse of marine flares after false alarm near Wainfleet

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February 16, 2021

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The Canadian Press · Posted: Feb 16, 2021 5:59 AM PST | Last Updated: February 16, 2021



The Niagara Regional Police Service says marine flares should never be discharged near the water unless it's a real emergency. (Francis Vachon/Canadian Press)

Police are reminding the public to not use marine flares unless it's an emergency after a false alarm over the weekend.

Emergency services were called to the shore of Lake Erie after a marine flare was spotted near Wainfleet, Ont., on Sunday night.

Niagara regional police say a member of the public had reported seeing the red flare go off and land approximately 22 metres from shore.

Police say emergency personnel scoured the shoreline and water for any boats or people in distress.

A Canadian rescue aircraft in Trenton, Ont., was placed on standby in case its assistance was required and a drone was also used to scan the area.

Police say a discharged marine flare was found on shore in the area of the initial flare sighting but no boats or people were found in distress.



Police say a discharged marine flare was found on the shore in the area. (Niagara Regional Police Service)

Port Colborne uniform officers were called to the scene around 10:45 p.m. Emergency services were able to leave the scene around 1:15 a.m.

Niagara police say that people who intentionally discharge a flare in a careless manner could be investigated under the Criminal Code of Canada or the Canada Shipping Act.

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