

A wedding with flare: 2 men fined over Coast Guard search

 wwlp.com/news/ap-strange-news/a-wedding-with-flare-2-men-fined-over-coast-guard-search

WWLP

October 5, 2021

AP Strange News

The Associated Press

Posted: Oct 5, 2021 / 11:41 AM EDT

Updated: Oct 5, 2021 / 11:41 AM EDT

This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated. Please look at the time stamp on the story to see when it was last updated.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Two Rhode Island men authorities say touched off a needless and expensive ocean search-and-rescue effort when they fired maritime distress flares to celebrate a friend’s wedding have agreed to pay \$5,000 each to settle the case, federal prosecutors said Tuesday.

The Coast Guard and the town of New Shoreham spent more than \$100,000 combined responding to the flares off Block Island on June 6, 2020, when there was no one in distress, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney’s office in Providence.

Perry Phillips, 31, and Benjamin Foster, 33, “knowingly and willfully communicated a false distress message to the Coast Guard,” according to the civil complaint, and “caused the Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help was needed.”

The men borrowed a flare gun and flares, set out on the water in a small skiff, and fired three flares when they thought they could be seen by people at their friend’s wedding reception, prosecutors said. They recorded their actions to post on social media, prosecutors said.

People who saw the flares reported them to the New Shoreham harbormaster, who in turn alerted the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard deployed a boat and two helicopters for the search.

SPONSORED CONTENT

[Date Night Has Never Been BetterRex MD](#)

[3 Toxic Foods for Dogs: The One Meat You Should Never Feed Your](#)

[DogDogFoodDiscovery.com](#)

[New Retirement Villages Near Sacramento \(Take a Look at the Prices\)Branded Links](#)

Top Stories

Local real estate: high demand, low supply.



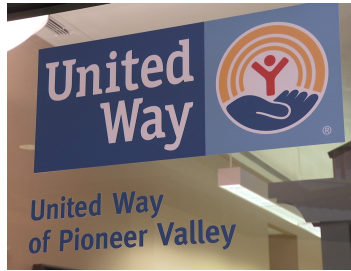
Biden's Europe trip focuses on NATO's future



Millions of gallons of sewage discharging into Connecticut ...



United Way of Pioneer Valley launches ‘Stuff the ...



Top Stories

More Stories

Sex charges dismissed against reality TV doctor, ...



Relentless rain floods roads in Northeast, leads ...



James Lewis, the suspect in the 1982 Tylenol poisonings ...



Glens Falls ranked No. 1 safest city in U.S.



Deadly flooding hits several countries, scientists ...



Andrea Evans of ‘One Life to Live’ and ‘Young and ...



Local real estate: high demand, low supply



Biden's Europe trip focuses on NATO's future



[More Stories](#)

WWLP Video

Biden's Europe trip focuses on NATO's future

1 hour ago



Why so much rain in Massachusetts

3 hours ago



Man trapped in flooded vehicle rescued from Maines ...

4 hours ago



Town-wide power outage in Chester

6 hours ago



Flooding waters at East Branch of Mill River in Williamsburg

6 hours ago



Flooding on Meadow Street in Florence

7 hours ago



Congressman Richard Neal to Visit Camp Atwater

7 hours ago



Help crochet hats for babies in Amherst

7 hours ago



How the new Alzheimer's drug works

8 hours ago



State Police searching for missing 7-year-old in ...

8 hours ago



Boy scout dies in boating accident on New Hampshire ...

8 hours ago



[More Videos](#)

Top Stories on WWLP.com

[Weather Alert: Heavy rain may lead to flooding across ...](#)



[Why so much rain in Massachusetts](#)



[Several homes evacuated in Williamsburg due to flooding ...](#)



[Holyoke man arrested after gun found during traffic ...](#)



[Crews working to put out house fire on Daniel Square ...](#)



Sponsored Content



See how DU® delivers a better approach to loan processing.

By Fannie Mae

© 1998 - 2023 Nexstar Media Inc. | All Rights Reserved.