

KHON2 News - Former Firefighter Dedicates Himself to Inspiring Cause After Spinal Injury

Beach Safety Week continues here in Hawaii and a former firefighter shares a story about the importance of being safe while in the ocean.

Yurik Resetnikov says as a firefighter, he pulled from the ocean dozens of people who suffered spinal injuries.

And the one day, six years ago it happened to him.

Resetnikov says, he was at sandy beach body surfing with his friends.

On his last wave, he got slammed to the ocean floor.

And he says immediately, he knew what was wrong.

I knew immediately the predicament I was in.

I've gone to a dozen calls of people in my position.

You know, just people I've pulled out of the water and put them on backboards.

And, and, and people had been paralyzed.

And um, when it happened to me, like I knew exactly what I did.

And um, I believe this was my story was supposed to happen.

And um, you know, I don't feel bad. I feel worse about losing my job than losing my legs.

Resetnikov is now a paraplegic and an ambassador for an organization called "Surf for Special Needs."

The nonprofit provides, therapeutic ocean experiences for those with disabilities.

To learn more about the organization, head to our website KHON2.com.