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Coast Guard Airlifts 71-Year-Old from Carnival Ship During Tsunami Threat in North Pacific

July 31, 2025

– Categories: Breaking News



NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN – In a high-risk rescue operation during a chaotic Tuesday night, the U.S. Coast Guard airlifted a 71-year-old woman from the *Carnival Legend* cruise ship after she suffered a cardiac event while the vessel sailed through waters under a tsunami advisory triggered by a major earthquake off the Russian coast.

The Coast Guard launched an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Astoria, Oregon, to reach the cruise ship, which was located approximately 600 miles off the coast of northern Oregon in the North Pacific Ocean. The rescue came amid elevated regional alert levels following an 8.8-magnitude earthquake near Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, which led to a tsunami advisory for portions of the North Pacific.

According to the Coast Guard, the woman required immediate medical care that could not be provided onboard. The flight crew completed a complex long-range hoist operation in open seas to safely evacuate the patient and transport her to awaiting emergency personnel at Coast Guard Air Station Astoria. Her current medical condition has not been publicly released.

Cmdr. Neal Corbin, operations officer for Coast Guard District 13, commended the successful mission, stating:

“While carrying out a critical long-range medical evacuation during a tsunami warning, our aircrew's flawless execution is a powerful testament to the Service's unwavering dedication and the value of routine training.”

The rescue highlights the Coast Guard's ability to respond to simultaneous maritime emergencies and natural disaster threats. While tsunami waves are unlikely to impact vessels far offshore, such incidents add complexity to already dangerous rescue operations, particularly when life-threatening health emergencies arise at sea.

The *Carnival Legend*, operated by Carnival Cruise Line, continued on its scheduled route after the patient's evacuation. No other medical emergencies or tsunami-related issues were reported aboard the ship.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) later confirmed that the tsunami advisory was lifted after initial data showed only minor wave activity along coastlines. Nonetheless, the incident underscores the importance of preparedness, real-time coordination, and rapid response capabilities in protecting American lives during maritime crises.

The Coast Guard has advised all vessels operating in the North Pacific to remain alert to seismic activity bulletins and to follow any updated guidance from NOAA and relevant maritime safety authorities.