

**Vero Beach Lifeguard Association
Monthly Beach Report
For
Jaycee Park
Humiston Park
South Beach Park**

February 2015



Mission:

To promote water safety and lifeguarding in Vero Beach and the surrounding communities

Email: VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com

Website: www.VBLA.org

STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	45783
Preventative Actions	704
Minor Medicals	14
Major Medicals	0
Rescues	0
Average Water Temperature	64
Beach Erosion	Moderate
Stinging Marine Life	Minimal

General Conditions

Cool air temperatures have lowered the average ocean temperature to the low 60's. On a few days, the ocean temperature was recorded at 58 degrees. Although there were more crowds at the beach than in January, fewer people went into the water. Steady winds, currents and ocean swells have created steep cuts and ledges into the dunes at some beach locations. Terns, gannets and gulls can be seen along the beach and coast. On some days, steady southeast winds brought in Portuguese Man-O-War. City-sponsored beach grooming continues until April. The official start of turtle nesting season is March 1st. Rip currents and swells continue to be present. City of Vero Beach lifeguards had no water rescues or major medical calls in February. All swimmers are advised to pay close attention to beach condition flags, swim near lifeguard towers and avoid swimming during non-guarded beach hours.

Areas of Concern

Although aesthetically pleasing, groomed beaches have an adverse effect on the health of our shoreline. Seaweed that washes ashore provides birds, crabs and other animals with a food source and habitat. Seaweed traps seeds and sand allowing sand dunes to form creating a natural barrier which protects structures from damaging winds and hurricane swells. By grooming the beach, this natural erosion protection is stymied. The VBLA is working with City officials and Indian River County's coastal engineering department to install and maintain the prefabricated erosion prevention reef (PEP) buoys which mark the reef at central beach. It is illegal to bring dogs on the beach anywhere within the limits of the City of Vero Beach and Indian River County excluding service dogs. Service dogs are required to be on a leash, wear a vest and the owner must have proper service dog documentation. An increasing number of owners are bringing their dogs on the beach causing a health concern for beach patrons. Dogs may also disturb turtle nests and may scare turtles who are seeking to lay their eggs. VBLA recommends that the City of Vero Beach develop a five year plan to address beach safety concerns. The plan should include addressing the growing number of tourists, parking, handicap access, overlapping fields of vision by lifeguards and more.

Key

Park Attendance: includes areas immediately north and south of each park

Preventative Actions: stopping potential incidents before they occur

Minor Medicals: a medical incident which is treated on-site by lifeguard/EMT personnel

Major Medicals: a medical incident that required Emergency Medical Services

About VBLA

This report is furnished by the Vero Beach Lifeguard Association, a non-profit, 501C3 organization. Its mission is to promote water safety and lifeguarding in Vero Beach and the surrounding communities. Contact us at VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com or (908)797-8725. Visit us at www.VBLA.org.

Donations are appreciated. Monies raised are used to purchase equipment, supplies, staffing and training for the lifeguards from the city of Vero Beach.

Please send donations to: VBLA, 1351 White Heron Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32963.