

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

January 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	40204
Preventative Actions	702
Minor Medicals	23
Major Medicals	3
Rescues	2
Average Water Temperature	67
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Minimal

General Conditions

Cooler temperatures and high winds have kept the crowds off the beach for a large part of January. Steady winds and currents have brought back sand to most parts of the beach. Cuspid dunes, the tooth-like appearance of the dunes and steep ledges and drop-offs have formed. Terns, gannets and gulls have made their winter homes along the beach and coast. On some days, steady southeast winds brought in Portuguese Man-O-War. City-sponsored beach grooming continues until April. Tourists from all over the world can be spotted on the beach with the predominant group being French Canadian. Rip currents and swells continue to be present. City of Vero Beach lifeguards had 2 water rescues in January as a direct result of inexperienced swimmers getting caught in rip currents. 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. 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.