

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

**March 2015**



**Mission:**

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

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**Website: [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org)**

| STATISTICS                |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Total Park Attendance     | 90415    |
| Preventative Actions      | 1491     |
| Minor Medicals            | 126      |
| Major Medicals            | 1        |
| Rescues                   | 5        |
| Average Water Temperature | 74       |
| Beach Erosion             | Minimal  |
| Stinging Marine Life      | Numerous |

### **General Conditions**

Ocean temperatures are steadily rising with the average temperature in March topping out at 74 degrees. March 2015 saw record crowds with over 90,000 people visiting our three guarded beaches. Steady southeast winds brought in the Portuguese Man-O-War which accounted for the majority of the minor medicals on the beach. Numerous spinner sharks, black tip reef sharks and bull sharks have been stopped in the water as bait fish have migrated into the area. City-sponsored beach grooming has been postponed due to turtle nesting season which started March 1<sup>st</sup>. 5 people were saved from drowning in rip currents in March. 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**

The VBLA is working with Vero Beach officials and Indian River County's coastal engineering department to install and maintain the prefabricated erosion prevention reef (PEP) buoys which mark this artificial reef at central beach. VBLA hopes to have the buoys installed by the end of April. Many individuals and families are on the beach and in the water after lifeguards leave at 5pm. A young man lost his life in March after being caught in a rip current near JayCee Park after 5pm when no lifeguards were on duty. VBLA encourages patrons to swim at a guarded beach during lifeguard hours and understand the potential life threatening conditions. It is illegal to bring dogs on the beach anywhere in 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 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 will recommend 8 items to the City of Vero Beach for its comprehensive plan which will address beach safety.

## **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](http://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.