

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

**2013**



**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)**

2013 STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	600880
Preventative Actions	14130
Minor Medicals	590
Major Medicals	23
Rescues	71
Missing Persons	6
Average Water Temperature	80
Rip Currents	Moderate - High
Beach Erosion	Moderate
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

### **General Conditions**

Park attendance was down 22% in 2013 compared the the year prior. Various weather conditions, rip currents, stinging marine life and negative press (lost swimmer and a shark attack at South Beach Park and/or sub par beach cleanliness along City beaches) may be to blame. Fewer families on “staycations” my also a factor. The number of minor medicals which lifeguards treated was up 32% due mostly to the large number of jellyfish which lingered during the warmer months. There was a 40% increase in major medical incidents which included the shark attack at South Beach Park in November and rough surf injuries. The number of water rescues more than doubled in 2013 due mostly to a “South Florida Trough” which formed in July when lifeguards rescued 18 swimmers from extremely powerful rip currents . 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**

Lack of communication between the Police, Fire Rescue and Ocean Rescue have resulted in resource inefficiency and slower response times to some incidents which happen on City beaches. It is recommended that better communication be established between the departments. Beach clean up efforts have fallen short when a new contractor was hired to clean the beaches starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. As of the publication of this report, a new and more experienced company will be taking over beach clean up duties. With Humiston Beach tower at shortened hours and no lifeguard presence at Sexton Plaza, 1/3 mile of City beach remains unguarded for the majority of time. Sexton Plaza and Humiston Park have become popular sections of beach for locals and tourist alike. Since many of the City's hotels, shops and restaurants are located within this area, it is highly recommended that efforts be made to close the safety gap.

## **Key**

Park Attendance: patrons within the park and 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 additional 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](mailto: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 and training for the lifeguards from the city of Vero Beach. Please send donations to: VBLA, 1351 White Heron Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32963.