

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

November 2014



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	32151
Preventative Actions	599
Minor Medicals	17
Major Medicals	1
Rescues	0
Missing Persons	0
Average Water Temperature	72
Rip Currents	Frequent
Beach Erosion	Moderate to Heavy
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate to Heavy

General Conditions

Large waves have carved steep slopes along most of the City's beaches. East and Southeast winds have brought in lots of seaweed and some Portuguese Man-O-War. Seasonal residents have started to arrive in town. Persistent winds continue to drive larger waves and storm swells onto the beach producing rip currents and dangerous conditions at times. With turtle nesting season at an end, grooming of our beaches has begun. City of Vero Beach lifeguards performed 33 water rescues in 2014. 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 bird, crabs and other animals with a food source and habitat. Seaweed traps seeds and sand

allowing sand dunes to form creating a barrier which protects structures from damaging winds and hurricane swells. By grooming the beach, this natural erosion protection is not allowed to occur. It is illegal to bring dogs on the beach anywhere within the limits of the City of Vero Beach or 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. Some members of the public continue to bring dogs on the beach and do not clean up after their dogs 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.