

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

May 2016



**Our Mission:
To promote water safety in Vero Beach and the
surrounding communities**

**Email: VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com
Website: www.VBLA.org**

STATISTICS

Total Park Attendance	58231
Preventative Actions	916
Minor Medicals	21
Major Medicals	4
Rescues	6
Average Water Temperature	80
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

General Conditions

Ocean temperatures have risen into the low 80's. Many more turtle nests have been detected and marked. Rip currents continue to be an issue at our beaches. Lifeguards rescued 6 swimmers from rip currents in May bringing the total number of water rescues for 2016 to 18. Most minor medical calls have been for jellyfish stings and abrasions. Most major medical calls have been for broken bones and heat related injuries. Baitfish and the larger fish which feed upon them were a common sight. 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

As budget talks for the City of Vero Beach begin for fiscal year 2016-17, the VBLA recommends that funding for safer beaches include an ATV and shed at each guarded beach which will allow for faster response times by lifeguards during emergencies. Secondly, the City should extend guarded beach hours from March to September two more

hours to 7pm to keep up with the rising popularity of Vero's beaches. Many individuals and families are on the beach far from a guarded area and/or in the water after lifeguards leave at 5pm. Providing this additional equipment and extending hours will help address the safety issues that have resulted in two preventable deaths at our beaches in 2015. Vero Beach ranked #1 in 2015 along with Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood and Palm Beach County with the greatest number of water related deaths on the beach outside guarded areas and hours of operation. Vero ranks #2 among south Florida municipalities with the least amount of guarded beach area but ranked 3rd in the most patrons per tower than any other town behind Miami Beach and Hollywood Beach. The amount of trash left on the beach and overflowing trash cans plagued the beaches this month. We recommend that garbage be collected more often during the week. Efforts are being made by private organizations to clean up after our visitors but more needs to be done. There are plenty of receptacles in and around the park to accommodate the crowds, however, VBLA recommends that there is daily trash receptacle pick up.

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.