

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

July 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	69964
Preventative Actions	1093
Minor Medicals	35
Major Medicals	5
Rescues	0
Average Water Temperature	84
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

General Conditions

Seasonal upwelling (cool water from deep ocean currents) have arrived lowering the ocean temperatures into the low 70's. The upwelling may remain for two weeks before normal temperatures return. Sea turtle hatchlings have been consistently numerous. There were no rip current rescues in July keeping the number of rip current rescues in 2016 to 20. Most minor medical calls have been for jellyfish stings and abrasions. Most major medical calls have been for 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

Sea turtle hatchlings have been spotted on numerous occasions during daylight hours. If you encounter a

struggling hatchling during daylight hours please wrap it in a moist towel and bring it to a lifeguard tower. Lifeguards will contact Sea Turtle Research. When hatchlings emerge from the sand they may mistake light from dwellings as the moon and travel inland rather than to the ocean. If you live on the beach, please comply with light pollution ordinances.

VBLA recommendations for safer beaches:

1. Provide an ATV at each guarded beach to allow for faster response times by lifeguards during emergencies.
2. The City should extend guarded beach hours to 7pm from the current time of 5pm 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 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 with the most patrons per tower than any other town other than Miami Beach and Hollywood Beach.

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.