

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

**December 2016**



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

**Email: [VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com](mailto:VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org)**

## STATISTICS

Total Park Attendance	59,894
Preventative Actions	1160
Minor Medicals	27
Major Medicals	4
Rescues	7
Average Water Temperature	70
Beach Erosion	Moderate
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

### **General Conditions**

Occasionally strong southeast and northeast winds pounded the beaches in December causing shifting sands and a dune ledge running along the shoreline. The effects of Hurricane Matthew can still be seen at the boardwalk at Conn, JayCee and Humiston Beach Parks. The beaches are being groomed and the removal of trash from the beach garbage cans has been adequate. Some picture perfect beach days brought in scores of visitors and locals to our guarded beach parks. Lifeguards were busy in December with 27 minor medicals and 4 major medical emergencies. Lifeguards rescued 7 swimmers from drowning bringing the total number of rip current rescues in 2016 to 34. All swimmers are advised to pay close attention to beach condition signs and flags, swim near lifeguard towers and avoid swimming during non-guarded beach hours.

### **Areas of Progress**

The VBLA is pleased that the City of Vero Beach has been proactive with beach safety by funding the lifeguard department. Now each lifeguard tower is equipped with an

ATV to respond faster to emergencies inside and outside the park. In addition, signs have been posted along A1A and other streets near the beach to inform the public of the location of our guarded beaches.

### **Areas of Concern**

It is a goal of VBLA to educate everyone who comes to the beaches of Vero. Even though conditions may seem pleasant and inviting, beach patrons must realize that our ocean can be a wild and unforgiving force of nature. Tragically, a 58 year old man was killed at South Beach Park when a wave struck him. It is important to never turn your back on a wave regardless of its size and understand that even small waves can pose a hazard. Waves commonly found at our beaches crash on shore in as little as a few inches of water, known as "Shore Break". Lifeguards often treat minor and major injuries due to the shore break. Lifeguards recommend that everyone who visits the beach read the condition signs posted at each lifeguard tower, know the meaning of the condition flags that are flying and ask questions of our lifeguards to determine if venturing out in the water is right for you. In addition, many individuals and families are on the beach far from a guarded area and/or in the water after lifeguards leave at 5pm. VBLA recommends that the City of Vero Beach extends lifeguard hours to 7pm to address this safety issue.

### **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](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, 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.