

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

**March 2017**



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

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Website: [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org)**

STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	80735
Preventative Actions	1564
Minor Medicals	30
Major Medicals	4
Rescues	2
Average Water Temperature	72
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate/Severe

### **General Conditions**

March of 2017 saw some of the largest crowds on our beaches since VBLA started tracking numbers in 2011 with over 80,000 people in the guarded and just outside the guarded areas. Parking was at a premium. It was very windy for days but when the weather broke, people came out to the beach. Persistent southeast winds brought in Portuguese Man-O-War. Lifeguards were busy with treating stings, major medical calls and water rescues. Lifeguards rescued 2 swimmers from rip currents in the month of March bringing the total number of water rescues to 4 in 2017. 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**

VBLA produced and is in the process of distributing its Beach Safety Video to hotels, schools and civic organizations. With support from the City of Vero Beach, the video can be seen on COVB.org under the Recreation Department tab and at VBLA.org. VBLA hopes that more people will take the time to

watch the video and education themselves prior to coming to the beach.

### **Areas of Concern**

It is a goal of the 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 place. 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 into the water is prudent.

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.