

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

August 2017



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

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

STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	60031
Preventative Actions	1168
Minor Medicals	43
Major Medicals	2
Rescues	3
Average Water Temperature	80
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

General Conditions

Light winds and sunny skies attracted many people to the beach even though August is a slower time of year. Baitfish continued to increase in numbers as the month progressed. Sea turtle nesting was very active while hatchlings emerged in larger numbers. Attendance at the City beach parks was lower than in July as expected. Patrons seem to be spreading out, away from the guarded areas, filling in the areas between South, Humiston and JC beach parks most likely due to parking issues. Lifeguards had 3 water rescues in August bringing the total number of swimmers rescued from rip currents in 2017 to 15. Many dog owners continue to bring their dogs to the beach parks which are violations of City ordinances. 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 Vero Beach police department has started patrolling the beach. Police and lifeguards are working together more frequently when water related events occur. Police dispatch has been notifying the lifeguards of potential problems when the emergency is within the lifeguards' ability to effectively respond. Vero Beach City Council continued to support funding for lifeguards for the upcoming budget year. VBLA produced a beach safety video to educate the public. The video can be seen on COVB.org, VBLA.org and at most beachside hotels. 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

Lifeguards are only able to oversee approximately 1,200 yards of the 4 miles of beach within the City limits. Beach patrons seem to be filling in the unguarded areas between South, Humiston and JC Parks. Dog owners continue to ignore City ordinances by bringing their dogs to City beach parks. 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 recognize the essential public safety role lifeguards have in protecting the public by extending lifeguard hours to 7pm to address this safety issue. The following is a list of communities who have extended lifeguards hours to better protect the public:

Boca Raton
Clearwater Beach
Delray Beach
Fort Lauderdale
Hallandale

Hollywood
Manatee County
City of Miami
Miami-Dade County
Pompano Beach
Escambia County
Sarasota County

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.