

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

February 2018



**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	97,305
Preventative Actions	1095
Minor Medicals	195
Major Medicals	2
Rescues	6
Average Water Temperature	74
Beach Erosion	Fluctuating
Stinging Marine Life	Severe

General Conditions

Attendance records were shattered in February with almost 100,000 people enjoying our beaches within and immediately outside our guarded beach areas. The previous attendance record was set in March 2017 with 80,735 beach patrons. Strong winds and currents have contributed to some beach erosion. Persistent southeast winds have brought in Portuguese Man of War. Man of War stings greatly contributed to the 195 first responder calls made by lifeguards. The previous record for minor medical calls was set back in March of 2015 with lifeguards responding to 126 incidents. Lifeguards saved 6 people from drowning in rip currents in the month of March. Water temperatures are slowly rising into the mid 70's.

The Atlantic Portuguese Man of War, also known as the "floating terror" is a marine hydrozoan found in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Despite its appearance, the Portuguese Man of War is not a jellyfish but a siphonophore, which, unlike jellyfish, is not actually a single multicellular organism but a colonial organism made up of specialized individual animals. The name "Man of War" comes from an

18th century armed sailing ship. Man of War cannot propel themselves and rely on the wind for travel. They are carnivores eating small fish and plankton. The blue-grey bubble or bladder, filled with 14% carbon monoxide, sits on the surface of the water while the tentacles can extend as far as 98 feet below the surface. The creature's venom can deploy a sting days after being stranded on the shoreline. Treatment includes removing the tentacles and applying heat and or ammonia. Applying vinegar and/or fresh water has been shown to cause more nematocysts (poison) discharge.

All swimmers are advised to pay close attention to beach condition signs and flags, swim near lifeguard towers and avoid swimming during non-guarded hours.

Areas of Progress

The City of Vero Beach is restoring the protective dune at Conn and JC beaches. All dune restoration is scheduled to be completed by March 1st, the start of turtle nesting season.

Areas of Concern

As beach attendance grows, more and more people are outside the guarded areas increasing the likelihood of accidents and drownings. Dog owners continue to bring dogs on the beach violating City ordinances. The blue recycle bins and some waste receptacles have not been placed back on the beach since Hurricane Irma.

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.