

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

March 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 | 95,100 |
| Preventative Actions | 1132 |
| Minor Medicals | 7 |
| Major Medicals | 4 |
| Rescues | 10 |
| Average Water Temperature | 74 |
| Beach Erosion | Fluctuating |
| Stinging Marine Life | Minimal |

General Conditions

March attendance records were broken with over 95,000 people enjoying our beaches within and immediately outside our guarded beach areas. The previous March attendance record was set in March 2015 with 90,000 beach patrons. Strong rip currents formed causing lifeguards to perform 10 water rescues bringing the total number of people saved to 16 in 2018. The ocean temperature is slowly rising to the mid 70's. Far less Atlantic Portuguese Man of War were spotted drastically cutting the number of stings from last month. Beach erosion was minimal. Turtle nesting season has started (March 1 – October 31)

Northern Gannet (seabirds) have been spotted on our shores. Northern Gannets are very large with white feathers, black primaries and long pointed wings. The juveniles are gray. Gannets dive for fish and squid, soar to great heights and are found along the Atlantic coast of North America. Often seen from shore, they also may be found far from shore in the open ocean. Gannets breed on the coasts of extreme north eastern Canada and winter from Maine to just south of the Texas-Mexico border along Atlantic and Gulf

coasts. More than a few gray juveniles have been found dead or “injured” on our shores. Do not approach an injured or sick bird. Notify a lifeguard or police.



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

With tens of thousands of people enjoying our beaches, many patrons have been paying attention to beach condition signs, asking lifeguards about the water and staying safe. Vero Beach Police Animal Control have been stepping up enforcement of unauthorized dogs on the beach.

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.