

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

**September 2018**



**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	40,484
Preventative Actions	764
Minor Medicals	12
Major Medicals	3
Rescues	1
Average Water Temperature	84
Beach Erosion	Moderate
Stinging Marine Life	Minimal

### **General Conditions**

Beach attendance was down considerably but typical for this time of year when local students are in school and "snowbirds" have yet to arrive for the season. Seaweed, hurricane swells and afternoon thunderstorms added to the low beach attendance. Even though the aforementioned factors contributed to lower beach attendance, September 2018 beach attendance topped the record "low" attendance set last September (32,000) due in part to the arrival of Hurricane Irma on September 8-11 2017. The ocean water temperature averaged 84 degrees. The swell from Hurricane Florence washed out most of the remaining sea turtle nests. The mullet run is in full swing which attracted larger fish such as tarpon and sharks. Lifeguards closed the water on numerous occasions when larger predatory fish, attracted by the mullet, came too close to shore. Lifeguards responded to 15 medical calls and rescued one swimmer from a rip current in September bringing the total number of water rescues to 26 in 2018.

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 help from Idea Garden, Waldo's, Minuteman Press, Coastal Technology Corporation, Hoos Architects, Mills Short Engineers, Farrow Construction, City of Vero Beach Recreation Department, and City Council, VBLA's goal of giving our lifeguards the ability to see more of the beach and react to emergencies faster by building a lifeguard tower and command center at Humiston Park is progressing.



## **Areas of Concern**

During hurricane swells and large surf, it is strongly advised that the public stay out of the water due to the presence of strong rip currents and a large shore break.

## **Key**

Park Attendance: an estimated count of park attendees to include boardwalks within each park and 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

Rescues: Any water related emergency to include rip current rescues, fatigued swimmers, surfing, kite boarding and/or boating accidents.

## **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, and training for the lifeguards from the city of Vero Beach. Please send donations to: VBLA, 1351 White Heron Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32963.