LS7

PATROL OPERATIONS (GENERAL)

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

LS7.1 BEACH MANAGEMENT METHODS & ROLES

PURPOSE

To provide an understanding of the minimum roles and responsibilities a lifesaving service shall undertake within their beach operations.

POLICY

Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) is committed to ensuring a professional working environment by providing guidance to personnel regarding service expectations.

PROCEDURE

Beach Operations

1. Lifesaving personnel shall ensure the flagged primary patrol area is located in the safest possible area for swimming.
2. The patrolled area shall be under constant surveillance of lifesavers for the full duration of the patrol.
3. Patrol shelters, tents or bases shall be based in the most appropriate position to ensure full surveillance of and access to the primary and secondary patrolled areas, publicly identifiable and accessible.
4. The flagged primary patrol area should be as wide as appropriate to best manage risk, given the various factors involved (conditions, personnel, hazards).
5. Patrol flags, IRB/RWC/Boards shall be positioned as close to the water's edge as practical.
6. Lifesaving services should provide an information sign at the main access point to the patrolled area identifying the key hazards and information.
7. Appropriate hazard and information signage (mobile) shall be placed at adjacent beach access points and specific hazards.
8. Lifesaving personnel shall ensure the beach is in a safe and clean condition prior to setting up of the flagged patrol area. Particular attention should be made to hazardous items such as broken glass, bottles, needle sticks, branches, floating debris, etc.
9. In a multiple person team situation lifesaving personnel shall be assigned patrol duties and tasks e.g. Patrolling water's edge, tower surveillance, roving SSV patrols duties etc.
10. Lifesaving personnel should rotate roles on a regular basis – under the direction of the Patrol Captain – i.e. Every 20 minutes, to minimise fatigue/boredom and ensure full attention and efficiency.
11. Non lifesaving personnel are not permitted in a lifesaving arena except in an emergency.
12. Lifesaving personnel assigned to surveillance duties shall not utilise personal mobile phones or other devices which may distract attention from duties.
13. A lifesaver shall be stationed in an elevated position (mobile tower/facility tower/high point on sand dunes etc) at all times during operation when swimmers are in the water and have the beach area, including secondary area, under observation at all times.
14. Lifesaving personnel shall patrol the water's edge with a rescue tube whilst swimmers are in the water.
15. Radio channels (SurfCom, patrol) shall be constantly monitored.

Patrol Captain/Lifeguard

The Patrol Captain should be someone with sound patrolling experience and who, ideally, has been a Patrol Vice-Captain for at least 2 patrol seasons. In addition to being a well-skilled subject matter expert in patrolling the Patrol Captain is the team leader who manages his / her patrol team. This requires well developed organisational skills (e.g. to ensure shift attendance and swapping) as well as interpersonal skills to be able to appropriately interact with all team members in a culturally diverse organisation.

Before a patrol shift the Patrol Captain/Lifeguard/Club Captain shall ensure that sufficient patrolling members are available to attend the upcoming patrol shift and that all compulsory awards in accordance with the Lifesaving Services Agreement (BM, IRBD, IRBC, ART, SMBM) are covered. It is recommended to do this at least three days before the next patrol shift to allow sufficient time for members to organise a swap if needed.

At the beginning of every patrol the Patrol Captain/Lifeguard shall:

1. CONDUCT A BRIEFING WITH PATROL TEAM – AT THE START OF EVERY PATROL. The briefing should cover, at a minimum, conditions, tides, hazards, task allocations, rostering, breaks, expectations, etc. This briefing should be noted as having occurred in the notes section of the Operations App.
2. Prior to the commencement of duty check all previous log entries and liaise with the previous Patrol Captain/Lifeguard to identify any issues (equipment or other) or hazards present.
3. Ensure all lifesaving equipment is checked and prepared before duty with the assistance of patrol team members
4. According to training select the safest area of beach to erect the flagged primary patrol area from an elevated observation point and/or physical test of the area (where permitted).
5. Ensure the positioning of lifesaving equipment inside/outside of the flagged patrol area is in a manner that it is readily available for emergency responses and that will not become harmful to the public.
6. Ensure a proper buffer zone exists between the surf craft area and the swimming area.
7. Ensure that all lifesaving services personnel take a pro-active approach to preventative measures i.e. Warning the public of dangers, surveying swimmers between the flags, placing of equipment in the vicinity of hazards etc.
8. Co-ordinate any search and rescue situation that may occur.
9. Be aware of and abide by the Local Government Act.
10. Ensure Council ordinance signage and mobile hazard and information signage are erected (where required).
11. Ensure the correct recording of information in the Operations App, log books, report forms etc.
12. Make themselves easily accessible to the general public to answer any general enquiries.
13. Have with them a radio (hand held) at all times during patrol and monitor SurfCom.
14. Delegate roles, activities and rotations to members of patrol.
15. Allocate responsibilities in case of emergency and/or rescue.
16. CONDUCT A DEBRIEF WITH PATROL TEAM AT THE END OF EVERY PATROL.

Lifesaving Services Personnel

Prior to an upcoming patrol shift it is the Patrol Team Member's responsibility to contact the Patrol Captain/ Lifeguard to advise if she/he is unavailable to attend the upcoming patrol shift. This is particularly important for those members who hold compulsory awards in accordance with the Lifesaving Services Agreement (BM, IRBD, IRBC, ART, SMBM). It is recommended to do this at least three days before the next patrol shift to allow sufficient time to organise a swap if needed. Organising a swap is the Patrol Team Member's responsibility unless prior arrangements have been made at your Club and approved by the Club Captain.

During each patrol, Lifesaving service personnel shall:

1. Always carry a rescue tube when patrolling the waters edge. It is recommended that a whistle and radio are also utilised.
2. Practice the basic principles of PREVENTION, RECOGNITION, and RESCUE on duty.
3. Report to the Patrol Captain for sign on/off in the Operations App or log book at start/finish of patrolling operations.
4. Ensure all lifesaving equipment is erected in a secure and safe manner.
5. Proactively encourage swimmers to swim in between the red and yellow flags.
6. Warn swimmers entering the water outside of the flagged area of the danger and hazards and advise them to swim between the red and yellow flags.
7. Ensure that board riders do not impose on the flagged patrol area.
8. Wear the correct patrol uniform during their rostered times.
9. Remove their uniform at the completion of their operations/duties.
10. Not leave the patrol area unless authorised by the Patrol Captain/Lifeguard.
11. Take a handheld radio when leaving the patrol area to be contactable in case of an emergency.
12. Maintain fluid intake during operations, especially on hot days.
13. Have access to required PPE.
14. Practice the basic principles of sun safety.
15. Always be polite and courteous when dealing with the public.
16. Advise Patrol Captain if feeling fatigued, ill, tired or injured.
17. Check rescue equipment for damage or breakages and report such.
18. Proactively advise members of the public that the patrolled area is closing i.e. At the end of the day and/ or due to dangerous conditions etc.
19. Advise of your absence, late arrival or early departure if needed.
20. At all times be under the direction of the Patrol Captain.

REFERENCE

Position Descriptions

LS7.2   OPENING OF PATROL (Start of Patrol)

Date: December 2019

PURPOSE

To outline the key required actions when opening a patrolled area.

POLICY

Lifesaving personnel in most areas are required to determine the safety of the selected patrol area and the most appropriate method and efficient deployment of equipment and personnel in addition to any specific actions that may have to be taken to ensure public safety.

The flagged area should be located in the safest area for swimming and should be opened as wide as possible where conditions, activities and resources allow.

Patrol flags and rescue equipment shall be positioned as close to the water's edge as possible. The flags and rescue equipment must be moved with the rise and fall of the tide to keep them at the waters edge.

PROCEDURE

Establishing a flagged area

In areas where a flagged area is established the following factors should be considered:

General:

- Size and distance of area to be patrolled.
- Number of patrons.
- Skill level(s) of patrons.
- Type of activities.
- Recreational equipment in use (inflatables, etc).
- Potential hazards (i.e. Rocks, sudden drop off, etc).
- The number of personnel on duty.
- The type and amount of equipment available.
- Facilities available to the lifesaving services.
- Safety and emergency support operations.
- Communications systems (access to support/emergency services).
- Consideration given to the other beach users (i.e. Surfers)

Beach/Surf:

- Beach type.
- Prevailing conditions (weather, swell, tide, current).

Equipment

It is the responsibility of the Patrol Captain/Lifeguard to ensure that all emergency equipment is in place and in working order.

Any damaged or missing equipment shall be reported in the log, tagged and communicated ASAP to the Club Captain or Lifeguard Supervisor.

All patrolling equipment shall be checked on each deployment, with specific attention to the condition and operability of; power craft, rescue, first aid and resuscitation equipment.

LS7.2 OPENING OF PATROL (Start of Patrol)

Date: December 2019

Oxy Resuscitation Kits:

- System test and miscellaneous equipment check
- Check oxygen cylinder is over ½ full;
- Ensure at least 1 full backup cylinder is available

Defibrillators:

- System test and miscellaneous equipment check

First Aid Kits:

- Condition and contents check

Powercraft:

- Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) checks
- Side-by-Side Vehicle (SSV) checks
- 4WD Vehicle check

Rescue Equipment

- Rescue board checks
- Rescue tube checks

Radios:

- Fully charged and operational

Patrol – Sign On Procedure

Patrol Captains/Lifeguards are required to report to SLS SurfCom when they have commenced patrol. The Operations App is the primary method used for this with radio as a backup. SurfCom will contact services to conduct a radio check in a North - South order.

LS7.3 PATROL BRIEFINGS

Date: December 2019

PURPOSE

To outline the concept of a "patrol briefings" and topics to be covered within.

POLICY

Good beach management requires good communication. Patrol briefing provides an excellent tool for optimal patrol planning and preparation.

In a volunteer situation this should be conducted by the Patrol Captain.

In a lifeguard situation this may be done by the Senior Lifeguard or Lifeguard Supervisor.

A briefing should be consistently employed on every occasion, regardless of the predicted level of patrolling/rescue activity.

PROCEDURE

A start of patrol briefing should:

- Include all lifesaving personnel.
- Invite input and questions at any stage (open forum).
- Utilise visual aids (whiteboards/maps etc).

Roles and responsibilities.

- Identify any new personnel that may require a full induction.
- Pair up new/inexperienced personnel with experienced personnel.
- Reiterate that personal devices are not to be used on patrol by anyone other than the Patrol Captain and then only for purposes related to lifesaving (eg. Radar weather check)

An operational briefing may cover:

- Patrol Operations Manual (POM).
- Beachsafe App
- Patrol Audit Form.
- Uniform check (current/meets policy, clean, practicable).
- Equipment check (as a team or task personnel).
- Allocate equipment as necessary (radios, call-signs etc).
- Current and expected beach/water/weather conditions.
- Expected patronage.
- Identified high risk areas (areas of lateral drift, rips, holes etc).
- Identified high risk groups (rock fishermen, tourists etc).
- Beach management plan (surveillance positions, flag duties etc).
- Incident contingency plans (based on identified risks, who, what, where, when).
- Roster (including rotations and subs).
- Health and safety issues (Sun Safety, Fluid intake etc).
- Public image/professionalism expectations and awareness of social media.
- Radio communications (SurfCom/Channels).

LS7.3 PATROL BRIEFINGS

Date: December 2019

PATROL CHANGE OVERS

Procedure

Outgoing Patrol Captain should perform a debrief with the incoming Patrol Captain regarding conditions and any information relevant to the incoming patrol.

Surfcom only needs to be notified when there is a material change in the minimum requirements to keep the beach open (e.g. if the IRB is no longer operational).

REFERENCE

Patrol Operations Manual

Patrol Audit Form

LS7.4 CLOSURE OF PATROL (End of Patrol)

PURPOSE

To outline best-practice procedure for closing a lifesaving service patrol for the day.

POLICY

The closure of a lifesaving service patrol at the end of the day requires effective communication to ensure a safe transition from supervised swimming to unsupervised swimming.

PROCEDURE

Disestablishing of a flagged patrol area

1. Refer to Lifesaving Service Agreement and identify whether extended times (above minimum hours) are required due to patronage or conditions.
2. Inform SurfCom of closure or extension.
3. Utilise the public announcer or similar to inform swimmers of closure and recommend they cease swimming for the day.
4. Utilise in-water lifesaving personnel to inform public of closure.
5. Consider a roving patrol to adjacent areas to inform public of closure.
6. Repeat communication of closure and warning of hazards to remaining swimmers if required.
7. Maintain surveillance of water by delegated lifesaving personnel while equipment is packed up for the day.
8. Maintain dedicated rescue equipment on-standby while other equipment is packed up for the day.
9. Prepare after-hour/call out response equipment (rescue-ready).
10. Conduct a final surveillance sweep of surf area before packing up standby equipment and leaving the beach.
11. Notify relevant club/service/branch officers/supervisors of any issues (i.e Equipment damage, consumable/fuel shortages etc).

If beach/water patronage warrants, and personnel are available, surveillance of the beach area should be maintained by lifesaving personnel (with access to rescue equipment) for at least 30min-1hour after the patrol has closed.

IRB Rescue Ready at Closure of Patrol

It is permissible that at the discretion of the Patrol Captain for an IRB to be removed from the beach, no earlier than 30mins before the minimum closing time, to be washed, refuelled and prepared for after hours/call out response under the following conditions:

- That the IRB driver and crew are in radio contact during this process and must be present until the minimum closing time is reached
- That the IRB (with driver and crew) is maintained in a rescue ready position to enable quick response to the beach should it be required until the minimum closing time is reached. e.g. Attached to SSV.

LS7.5 LIFESAVING ACTIVITIES ON CLOSED BEACHES

PURPOSE

To provide clarity for lifesaving activities that can be undertaken during a Closed Beach Patrol.

POLICY

In order to ensure that members have the required skills and abilities to safely work in surf conditions that constitute a Closed Beach Patrol refer LS SOP 4.3.

Training can occur in large surf conditions where the Patrol Captain judges it is safe to do so having undertaken a risk assessment.

Endorsed surf lifesaving competitions/events shall continue to be guided by the specific event safety plan.

No water junior activity is to be undertaken on closed beaches.

No in water lifesaving activity is to be undertaken on closed beaches affected by the following hazards:

• Dangerous Marine Creatures
• Debris in the water
• Marine pollution
• Electrical storms

This policy refers to beaches under the control of Surf Life Saving. Should the beach be under the control of another agency (i.e. Council lifeguards), the lifesaving service should communicate with the appropriate person responsible and agree on the training area to be used.

PROCEDURE

For the purposes of this SOP, lifesaving activities are separated into the following areas;

a) Training of members for the Bronze Medallion
b) Training conducted for maintaining the skills of lifesavers in SLSA awards currently held
c) Training of members for PowerCraft awards
d) Training conducted for surf sports

a) Training of members for the Bronze Medallion

If a Closed Beach Patrol is operating, water based training of members for the Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate (i.e. the award is not currently held) cannot be undertaken.

b) Training conducted for maintaining the skills of lifesavers in SLSA awards currently held

Members who are undertaking lifesaving activities for the purpose of maintaining or improving skills must adhere to the following procedure:

1. Members must be financial members and be proficient in the award (minimum Bronze Medallion).
2. Patrol Captain must conduct risk assessment to ascertain if the conditions are suitable for training.
3. Prepare appropriate water safety
    a) If swim or board rescue training is being conducted there is to be a minimum of one fully operational IRB, on standby as water safety.
    b) The crew of the water safety IRB must be briefed on the training to be undertaken and must be ready to respond.
    c) The services' IRB on duty can be used with approval from both Patrol Captain and IRB Driver.
4. The relevant training signage should be positioned near the training area
5. Patrol Captain to advise SurfCom that the service is conducting training on a Closed Beach. e.g. "SurfCom this is South Narrabeen, be advised we are currently conducting board training for the next 2 hours, over."
6. Should conditions or circumstances change, the Patrol Captain has the authority to suspend the training activity.
7. At the completion of training, the Patrol Captain is to advise SurfCom that training is now complete.

c) Training of members for Powercraft Awards

Members who are undertaking Powercraft training for new or existing awards must adhere to the following procedure:

1. Members must be financial members and be proficient in the prerequisites (minimum Bronze Medallion).
2. Patrol Captain/Trainer must conduct a risk assessment to ascertain if training is suitable.
3. Prepare appropriate water safety.
    a) There must be a minimum of one fully operational IRB, on standby as water safety. The crew of the water safety IRB must be briefed on the training to be undertaken and must be ready to respond.
    b) The services' IRB on duty can be used with approval from both Patrol Captain and IRB Driver, but it cannot be used for the training. ie. If one IRB is on the water, then the second IRB must be on standby and capable of response .
4. The relevant training signage should be positioned near the training area.
5. Patrol Captain to advise SurfCom that the service is conducting training on a Closed Beach. e.g. "SurfCom this is South Narrabeen, be advised we are currently operating IRB training for the next 2 hours, over."
6. Should conditions or circumstances change, the Patrol Captain has the authority to suspend the training activity.
7. At the completion of training, the Patrol Captain is to advise SurfCom that training is now complete.

d) Training conducted for surf sports competition

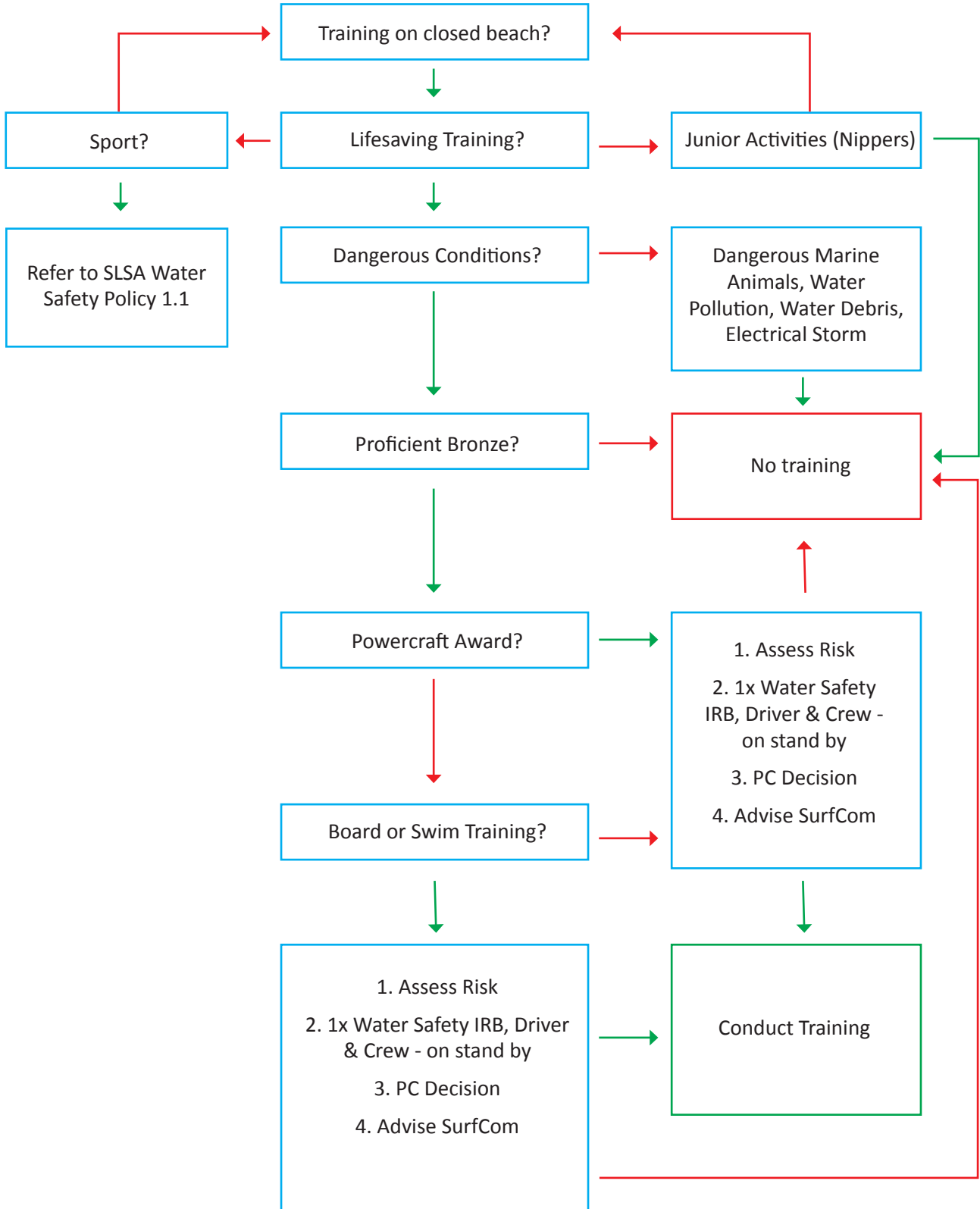Refer to SLSA Water Safety Policy 1.1

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PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the safe management of vehicular traffic on beaches.

POLICY

Driving on beaches should only be permitted:

• As approved by the local regulating authority.
• Where the beach surface structure supports the weight of vehicles.
• Where there are no roads running immediately adjacent to the beach.
• Where the driver of the vehicle has undertaken an induction which is recorded in Surfguard.
• In an emergency.

On-beach driving shall be undertaken at the slowest safe practical operating speed.

Local government and/or state regulations in relation to speed must be adhered to at all times.

The SSV vehicle should not exceed 20km/h under normal operating conditions. The speed limit for heavily populated areas and between the red and yellow flags is 5km/h.

It is the operator's responsibility to evaluate the environment to determine a safe and appropriate speed within these limits.

PROCEDURE

Beach Access

Enter and leave the beach only at ramps and designated access points.

Beach access gates, ramps and tracks should be sign posted with appropriate driving rules and regulations specific to the area.

When driving on beaches the following conditions/precautions should be taken into consideration:

• Poor visibility (sun on sand, sea spray and mist creates disorientation).
• Distractions from other vehicles, water and wave conditions, wildlife, fishers, beach users and swimmers etc.
• The best sand vehicles are light.
• Wet sand near the wave line may be hard but an odd soft patch can send you off-course without warning.
• Know your tides, never drive along wave line on a rising tide.
• Be aware of fishers and fishing lines.
• Beware of washouts after heavy rains.
• Always park in the direction of intended travel.
• Sand tyre pressures:
    – For beach driving a reduction in tyre pressure to manufacturers specification is recommended.
    – It must be noted that tyres deflated to half normal pressure won't respond to braking or steering as effectively.
    – Finding the correct pressure is largely trial & error for a particular vehicle with a particular load, but most vehicles place the lower limit at 16psi.
    – Never drive on roads with these reduced tyre pressures.

Other factors

Other factors that need to be considered and promoted to owners and operators of vehicles to be driven on beaches include:

- Speed of travel on beaches;
- Ground clearance;
- Consistency of the sand;
- Other vehicles and degradation of the beach; and
- Pedestrians.
- Driving on beaches at high tide or on narrow beaches contributes to general beach erosion and erosion of native habitats including birds, crabs and sea turtles.
- Driving on the beach causes sand compaction and rutting, and can accelerate erosion.

Rules of the "Road"

The following specific rules of the road shall be met for driving on beaches:

1. Vehicles should have a current and valid registration. Only approved vehicles to be used.
2. Drivers must have a current and valid:
    a) Drivers license for the vehicle type, and a;
    b) Permit to drive on a beach (if required).
3. A red or green P-Plate must be displayed in cases where the operator holds a Provisional 1 or Provisional 2 Drivers Licence
4. It is the operator's responsibility to affix the P-Plate in and appropriate and visible spot on the vehicle and to remove it after use.
5. Headlight and hazards lights shall be activated when in motion.
6. Pedestrians, swimmers and bathers have the right of way over all vehicles.
7. Wildlife has the right of way over all vehicles.
8. Vehicles should not be driven in the dune systems.
9. Seat belts must be worn at all times.
10. Passengers should not be carried on the outside of the vehicle.
11. Keep to the left of oncoming vehicles.
12. Use indicators when overtaking or turning (if fitted).
13. A driving suspension automatically means suspension of driving privileges for SLS vehicles.

Accidents/Injuries

Accidents and/or injuries as a result of driving on beaches will be at the jurisdiction of the law.

PURPOSE

To provide guidance in relation to the practical enforcement of local by-laws/regulations.

POLICY

Lifesaving personnel shall be responsible for enforcement functions only as delegated by the relevant authority (local government) under the specifications of the Local Government Act.

Outside of a delegated authority situation lifesaving services may also provide advice and guidance to the public regarding by-laws, regulations and prohibitions in order to promote the safety of personnel and the public.

PROCEDURE

The enforcement of regulations will generally follow a systematic progression or escalation of information and warnings.

The following outlines a series of stages a Patrol Captain/Lifeguard can work through to promote local regulations:

1. Advisory
2. Warning
3. Reporting

Advisory Stage

The advisory stage can have three sub-stages:

1. Communicate – Establish communication
2. Inform/Educate – Provide information
3. Advise – Provide specific advice

Communicate

- Greet the person
- Introduce yourself
- Positive body language
- Smile
- Establish a rapport

Inform/Educate:

- Explain that the area is subject to certain rules and regulations.
- Explain that these rules are for the safety and health of all.
- Identify the authority of the regulation – i.e. Local Authority.
- Advise them of the preferred course of action.

Advise:

- Advise the person that they would be, or are, in breach of these regulations.
- Reinforce what you would like from them as a preferred course of action.

LS7.7   REGULATION ENFORCEMENT

Date: December 2019

Warning Stage

Warning:

- Advise the person that they are in breach of the regulation and of the penalty if they continue their current activity.
- Advise them of your course of action.

Reporting Stage

Reporting:

- Report offence to appropriate authority.
- Record details.

LS7.8 INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY PUBLIC

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Date: December 2019

PURPOSE

To outline the protocols for managing inappropriate behaviour.

POLICY

Inappropriate behaviour covers numerous activities that occur on beaches.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Theft
- Consumption of alcohol/drug use on beaches
- Suspected paedophiles
- Indecent exposure
- Public sexual activities

PROCEDURE

Where a patron reports someone to lifesaving personnel or lifesaving personnel observe someone involved in offensive inappropriate behaviour, or they believe someone to be suspicious they should follow the procedures listed below:

- Maintain a safe distance.
- If possible keep members of the public away (i.e restrict access to area of beach or public toilets etc).
- Make note of the person's description, location & vehicle.
- Take notes from witnesses.
- Contact SurfCom for Police assistance.
- Where Police are not on-site lifesaving personnel (minimum of 2) should observe the suspect (if safe to do so) and remain in contact with their patrol base until the Police arrive.

Water safety should not be compromised in this situation and minimum lifesaving service standards should be maintained in regard to water surveillance/patrolled area.

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Date: December 2019

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines relating to marine pollution incidents.

POLICY

In addition to the environmental risks associated with marine pollution there is a potential for risk to the community that includes:

- The health risks associated with potentially poisonous substances.
- The potential threat of fire or explosion.
- Marine Algae

PROCEDURE

Actions on identifying marine pollution

- As per "Emergency Beach Closure."

Plus:

- Notify SurfCom and request they contact the Environment Protection Agency, National Maritime Safety Authority, Department of Primary Industries.
- Provide assistance to Service NSW/DPI Officers as instructed.

Reporting

Witnesses to pollution being discharged from any vessel or noticing oil or chemical pollution should contact SurfCom, who will then contact the NSW Maritime or Environment Protection Authority.

The information that should be provided includes:

- When and where the pollution occurred.
- The type of discharge or a description of the product.
- The extent (area covered).
- Name of the vessel or other source.
- Any other relevant information.

PURPOSE

To provide information relating to the recognition and reduction of risks associated with beaches that have a shark meshing program (nets).

POLICY

This policy aims to:

- Help identify existing and potential health and safety issues.
- Raise the overall awareness of hazard identification and risk reduction.
- Assist in establishing risk management procedures.

PROCEDURE

The Shark Control Program

Fisheries NSW manages the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program to provide a safer environment for swimmers and surfers. The program involves using specially designed nets along 51 beaches from Newcastle to Wollongong and a public education program. For more details refer to the Shark Smart pages of the Fisheries NSW website: http://www.sharksmart.nsw.gov.au/.

SLSNSW monitors issues relating to sharks across the state and consults with Fisheries NSW about the future directions of programs.

Rogue Equipment

Includes, but not restricted to, nets, lines, fishing gear, buoys and hooks that have moved from site, in particular if the equipment is in a location that may present a hazard to people.

In the event of "rogue" equipment being identified the following procedures shall be followed:

- Follow procedures listed in 'Emergency Beach Closure'.
- Isolate the equipment from public access/interaction.
- Do not move or retrieve the equipment.
- SurfCom (or similar) is to contact the SLSNSW State Duty Officer, who will call a Fisheries NSW Officer.
- Record as much detail regarding the equipment as possible.

Entrapment of species in shark nets

In the event of any species being identified as caught in a shark net whether it be alive or otherwise the following procedures may be applied:

At all times safety to lifesaving personnel and the public is to be considered the priority. While concern for an entrapped animal is warranted, no actions should be taken that may expose the personnel or the public to risk of injury.

In the first instance SurfCom should be notified and they'll contact the SLSNSW State Duty Officer. He/she will be responsible for contacting a Fisheries NSW Officer as listed above.

In rare cases Fisheries NSW may request assistance from Surf Life Saving to identify what is in a net. The following procedures are to be followed:

- Assess risk – only if risk is deemed low and acceptable should this activity be undertaken.
- Maintain a safe distance.
- Only suitably qualified and competent lifesaving personnel should participate in operations and shall involve only marine rescue vessels IRBs, RWCs, JRBs or ORBs (not in-water swimmers/board paddlers).
- Lifesaving personnel should not swim near shark nets.
- Lifesaving personnel must not attempt to free live or deceased entangled animals due to the risks associated with live animals and personnel entanglement.

Note: Live animals can and have killed the people trying to release them. Where required a trained team will be deployed to undertake disentanglement.

Animals Coming Ashore

In the event of any deceased animals/mammals (specifically sharks, turtles, whales, dolphins, seals and dugongs) SurfCom shall contact the SLSNSW State Duty Officer who shall liaise with a Fisheries NSW Officer.

Personal Safety

At all times safety to lifesaving personnel and the public is to be considered the priority. While concern for the animal is warranted, no actions should be taken that may expose the operators or the public to risk of injury.

Report Interference with Shark Nets/Illegal Fishing

It is an offence under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 to interfere with set fishing gear. Lifesaving personnel are encouraged to report any one seen interfering with Shark Nets and any illegal fishing activities to the Fisheries Watch 1800 043 536 or via website:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance/report-illegal-activity.

PURPOSE

To provide a consistent formal beach attendance monitoring program to improve the reliability, accuracy and range of data collected with regards to beach visitation.

POLICY

An evidence-based approach can be used to inform decisions on lifesaving service provisioning and resource allocation and also assist with procuring funding.

Attendance is captured and broken down into 4 specific areas:

1. In the water inside the flags
2. In the water outside the flags
3. On the beach
4. Craft

PROCEDURE

Lifesaving services should have the same methodology and procedures for observing and estimating beach attendance.

Visual scanning techniques utilised for effective water observation can also be applied for estimating on beach visitation figures.

The technique described below is subjective and is estimate based, however with additional checks and balances in place there should be improved confidence and faith in the figures.

Definitions

Attendance: Shall include the total number of people in the water and on the beach in the area specified.

Area: Shall be the area defined as the primary and secondary patrolling areas (up to 200m either side of the flags).

Grouping Technique

1. During observation, personnel should break the beach/water up into smaller representative groups.
2. Count the number of people in one such group.
3. Multiply the number of beach users in that group by the total number of groups contained on the beach.
4. It may be appropriate to estimate on beach and in water separately and then combine to give a total beach attendance.
5. This method is still subjective and if the representative group is poorly selected the total beach attendance figure can be significantly affected.

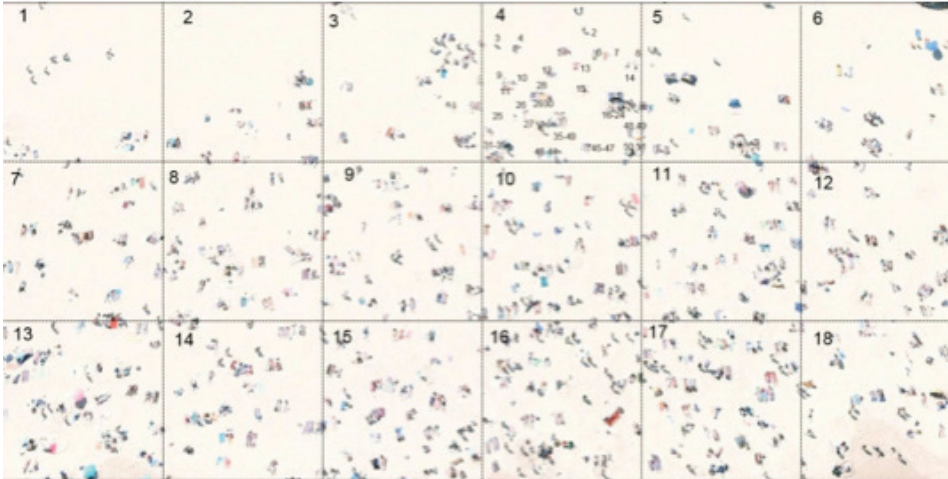**Beach attendance = Group Total A x Total Number of Groups**

Figure 1.

Example

In Figure 1, the beach has been split into 18 groups. Group number 4 has been selected as having an average representative number of attendees. Approximately 51 attendees can be counted in group 4. When multiplied out across the 18 groups, this gives and approximate attendance figure of 918 people.

Beach attendance = Group Total A x Total Number of Groups

Beach attendance 918 = 51 x 18

Reporting

Beach attendance should be collected at the start of each patrol and every hour thereafter and entered into the Operations App or patrol log book.

Beach attendance shall include the number of people in the water and on the beach at each of the specified times.

Data must be collected and recorded on Patrol Logs to be entered into SurfGuard within 14 days (as per SOP 3.1). Data entered via the Operations App must be approved and closed in SurfGuard by the Club Captain within 14 days.

REFERENCE

Brewster, C B 2003, 'Open Water Lifesaving – The United States Lifesaving Association Manual', United States Lifesaving Association, New Jersey, USA.