



# OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

## NEWS RELEASE

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

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**NEVER, NEVER SWIM ALONE!!!**

**SWIMMING NEAR A LIFEGUARD COULD SAVE A LIFE! YOURS!!**

As Ocean City Beach Patrol personnel return to other obligations, the number of surf rescue technicians (lifeguards) available to staff the stands along the 10 miles of beach decreases. The Ocean City Beach Patrol is committed to provide surf rescue technicians along the entire beach for all visitors and residents, so rather than have unguarded areas the number of available lifeguard towers are equally distributed along the beach front. As this redistribution occurs the location and distance between stands changes (sometimes on a daily basis). This is known as a reduced coverage scheme and begins the third week in August. This reduction in personnel is an annual occurrence, but is complicated by the earlier start of college classes and the return of OCBP's education professionals to school systems throughout the U.S. OCBP will have additional returning surf rescue technicians to allow them to increase the total number of stands (and decrease the distance between stands) on weekends as well as for Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day Weekend. In addition, OCBP will increase the number of mobile rescue units patrolling the beach.

Further impacting this situation is tropical storm activity in the Atlantic. As tropical events form and approach the East Coast they cause rough surf. This heavy surf contributes to the frequency and severity of rip currents. The beach patrol believes that these conditions warrant beach patrons taking extra precautions and walking the short distance to swim in the vicinity of a surf rescue technician on a stand.

Because of the dedication and commitment of these public servants, the beach patrol will continue to provide coverage of all 10 miles of Ocean City beaches until Sunday, September 25. Although this coverage will be done with fewer personnel and less lifeguard towers, OCBP will supplement this coverage by increasing the number of mobile rescue units patrolling the beach. These mobile units are first aid and AED equipped with one SRT (rider) acting as the primary rescue swimmer while the other SRT (driver) maintains radio communication and backup during an emergency. Both are qualified as surf rescue technicians, medical first responders and are quad (ATV) certified.

SRTs will be on duty daily between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. To aide your SRT, the beach patrol suggests taking extra precaution and make sure to walk the short distance to swim in the vicinity of a lifeguard stand. The first priority of the Ocean City Beach Patrol continues to be public safety. OCBP strongly encourages all beach patrons to restrict any beach or water-related activities to times when beach patrol personnel are on duty, never swim alone, always stay with the limits of their ability and never rely on a flotation device.

In contrast to finishing out the 2011 season, this is also the time when the beach patrol starts testing for new lifeguards for 2012 and begins focusing on staffing needs for next season. To begin realizing recruiting goals OCBP held a test on August 13 and will hold the next and possibly final pre-employment physical skills evaluations on Saturday, September 3. Those individuals who qualify will receive an appointment to a paid surf rescue academy in May or June 2012 where all training and certifications will be provided. As you can see the ending of one season blends into the beginning of the next. For additional information about the testing or training of beach patrol hopefuls or for daily locations of SRTs, call Beach Patrol Headquarters at 410-289-7556, or click on the JOBS button on [www.ococean.com/ocbp](http://www.ococean.com/ocbp).

Always remember, "Keep your feet in the sand until the lifeguard's in the stand!" and for your safety, take the extra precaution and walk the distance to the nearest surf rescue technician on a stand. Following this advise may save a life..... YOURS!

**"Anyone can get a "JOB".... But YOU can make a difference!"**

Ocean City is an Equal Opportunity Employer



KEEP YOUR FEET IN THE SAND..... UNTIL THE LIFEGUARD'S IN THE STAND!

