



OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week of August 19, 2013 to August 25, 2013

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

WEEKLY MEETING: CONVENTION CENTER – 40th STREET-Southwest corner on steps

CREW CHIEF MEETING: 800hrs

SEMAPHORE TEST: 0820hrs—REQUIRED TO PASS PROBATIONARY STAGE

AREA MEETING WITH SERGEANTS: 0825hrs

CREW MEETING: 0830hrs (Turn in individual stats, get schedule, assignments, and information from Crew Chief)

GENERAL MEETING: 0845hrs

LIEUTENANTS' MEETING: Cancelled

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 48th / 128th St.

Tides: High: 0619hrs

Low: 1232hrs

Special Events: Beach Safety Seminar—OC Lifesaving Museum—1000hrs

Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

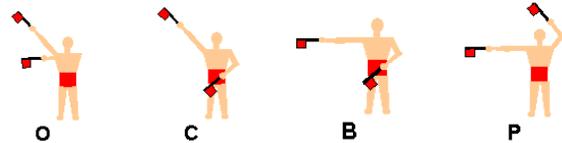
Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 46th / 126th St.

Tides: High: 0713hrs

Low: 1327hrs

Special Events: Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs

**Last Opportunity to take the Semaphore Test for 2013!
Monday, September 2nd**



S.R.T. Name:	Monday 8/19/2013	Tuesday 8/20/2013	Wednesday 8/21/2013	Thursday 8/22/2013	Friday 8/23/2013	Saturday 8/24/2013	Sunday 8/25/2013	CREW
Daily Assignment								
								Totals
Rescues								
Preventative actions								
First Aids								

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

AHA Community CPR Course: HQ Training Room—1800hrs

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 44th / 124th St.

Tides: High: 0806hrs

Low: 1420hrs

Special Events: 16th century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon*—3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs
Concerts on the Beach—*Rising Sun Reggae*—2000hrs—N. Division St.

Movies on the Beach— *The Avengers*—Carousel Hotel—2030hrs



There will be a community Heart Saver CPR class offered in the HQ training room on Wednesday, August 21st at 1800hrs.

The cost of the course is \$14.00.

Certification is for 2 years.

See Sgt. Jason Konyar for info.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 42nd / 122nd St.

Tides: High: 0856hrs

Low: 1511hrs

Special Events: 16th century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon*—3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs
Sunset Park Party Night—*Rob Fahey & the Pieces*--S. Division St.—1900hrs

Movies on the Beach—*Hotel Transylvania*—Princess Royale—92nd St.—2030hrs

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Mike Stone

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 40th / 120th St.

Tides: High: 0945hrs

Low: 1601hrs

Special Events: OC Jeep Week Parade—30th St. to Inlet—0800hrs to 1000hrs—**Special duty personnel report to 30th St. beach with quad at 0730hrs (See list of available assignments on p. 4)**

16th century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon*—3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditionally Open) / 38th St. / Carousel (118th St.)

Tides: High: 1033hrs

Low: 1651hrs

Special Events: 16th century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon*—3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs
Beach Weddings—26th St.—1100hrs

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013—End of Pay Period

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditionally Open) / 36th / Sea Watch (116th St.)

Tides: High: 1120hrs

Low: 1743hrs

Special Events: 16th century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon*—3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Sundaes in the Park—*Captain Quint*—Northside Park—1900hrs

Fireworks on the Bay—Northside Park—125th St—2100hrs

Beach Lights Spectacular—N. Division St.—2130hrs, 2200hrs, & 2230hrs

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

WEEKLY MEETING: CONVENTION CENTER – 40th STREET-Southwest corner on steps

OFFICERS' MEETING: 0730hrs

CREW CHIEF MEETING: 800hrs

SEMAPHORE TEST: 0820hrs—REQUIRED TO PASS PROBATIONARY STAGE

AREA MEETING WITH SERGEANTS: 0825hrs

CREW MEETING: 0830hrs (Turn in individual stats, get schedule, assignments, and information from Crew Chief)

GENERAL MEETING: 0845hrs

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OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season, you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 34th St. / Rainbow (112th St.)

Tides: High: 1209hrs

Low: 1837hrs

Special Events: 16th century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon*—3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs

UPCOMING 2013 BEACH PATROL EVENTS

Aug. 31—OCBP Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation
Write this on your chair sign and give out brochures to interested individuals.



Upcoming Town of Ocean City Special Events

OC Hotel Week	Various Participating Hotels	Aug 19-29	www.ococean.com for details	
Concert on the Beach	<i>Rising Sun Reggae Band</i>	Aug. 21	N. Division St.	2200hrs
Movies on the Beach	<i>The Avengers</i>	Aug. 21	Carousel Hotel	2030hrs
Movies on the Beach	<i>Hotel Transylvania</i>	Aug. 22	Princess Royale	2030hrs
Arts on the Dock		Aug. 22	OC Fishing Pier	1600hrs
Sunset Park Party Night	<i>Rob Fahey & the Pieces</i>	Aug. 22	S. Division St.	1900hrs
OC Jeep Week Parade		Aug. 23	30 th St. to Inlet	0800hrs
Sundaes in the Park	<i>Captain Quint</i>	Aug. 25	Northside Park	1900hrs
Movies on the Beach	<i>Rise of the Guardians</i>	Aug. 28	Carousel Hotel	2030hrs
Concert on the Beach	<i>Randy Lee Ashcraft & Saltwater Cowboys</i>	Aug. 28	N. Division St.	2200hrs
Movies on the Beach	<i>Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away</i>	Aug. 29	Princess Royale	2030hrs
Sunset Park Party Night	<i>Poole & the Gang</i>	Aug. 29	S. Division St.	1900hrs
Concert & Cruzers	<i>Tommy Edwards</i>	Sept. 8	Somerset Plaza	1500hrs
Tall Ship Event	<i>The Galleon</i>	Aug. 21-Sept. 2	3 rd St. Bayside	0900hrs -1800hrs
Sunfest		Sept. 20-23	Inlet Lot	1000hrs to 2200hrs
Park Place Jewelers Beach Treasure Hunt		Sept. 21-22		
<i>Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk & Run</i>		Oct. 19	Inlet	0730hrs

<u>Stats.</u>	<u>Week 12</u> 8/5/13 to 8/11/13	<u>Week 12</u> Year-To- Date 2013	<u>Week 12</u> 8/6/12 to 8/13/12	<u>Week 12</u> Year-To- Date 2012	<u>Week 12</u> 8/8/11 to 8/14/11	<u>Week 12</u> Year-To- Date 2011	<u>Week 12</u> 8/9/10 to 8/15/10	<u>Week 12</u> Year-To- Date 2010
Action								
Preventions	1489	23476	3218	50944	4568	73195	13759	56293
Rescues	41	1502	46	2282	95	1389	697	2238
Minor First Aid	108	1045	128	1137	204	1691	179	1537
Ambulance Calls	14	91	18	171	49	256	19	181
Police Calls	8	115	11	104	5	61	4	59
USCG/MDNRP	0	6	0	5	3	8	0	10
Lost/Found Persons	42	356	34	417	43	469	54	495
N. Surf Beach Population	104	600	7	417	124	515	197	1041
S. Surf Beach Population	65	2116	494	3393	151	2132	294	2941
Inlet Surf Beach Population	66	578	15	907	91	708	74	1895
Beach Wheelchair Usage	40	354	48	351	57	356	45	358

Jeep Parade Friday, August 23rd
Personnel Will Be Assigned to the following duties and locations.

Duty	Location
Quad Driver	66th
Quad Driver	HQ
Quad Driver	HQ
Quad Driver	66th
SUV	
Quad Driver	HQ
Quad Driver	27th
Quad Driver	130th
Quad Driver	27th
Quad Driver	HQ
Quad Driver	HQ



DO NOT FORGET THE BEACH PATROL WHEN YOU MAKE CHANGES

If you make any changes in the contact information that you have on file with us, it is your responsibility to let us know. If this coming season is as we predict, we will not be allowing personnel to return who have missed deadlines. Having mail returned or lost in forwarding may cause you to miss an important deadline.

E-mail – With free accounts and school accounts that are often changed you need to let us know immediately. We use e-mail to keep everyone informed of events and activities as well as confirming information and to get out quick updates.

Winter address – This is used to send U.S. mail such as newsletters, incentive checks, invitations to return, and other paperwork.

Permanent address – This address is not used by the Beach Patrol but is used by the Town of Ocean City to send tax information (W-2).

Request for Recommendations

Between seasons, I am often asked to complete references and recommendations. If you need me to provide something like this for you, I ask that you make the request in writing. In that request you should give me any information that will help me in giving you the best possible recommendation. I will need to know whom it goes to and if there is a particular format or form that is required. It will also be helpful to remind me of some of the Beach Patrol activities that you have been involved in, such as JBP, Camps, special duties, etc. I also will need a fair amount of lead-time since personnel files are secured in Ocean City while I am in La Plata. You may send your request by e-mail or if you are required to mail to a physical address, you may use:

Captain Butch Arbin
134 West Quail Lane
La Plata, Maryland 20646

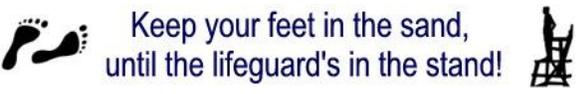
Recruiting Opportunities

Our 2nd Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation for next season will take place on Saturday, August 31st. This will be the last test of the season. Remember to mention this testing opportunity to potential candidates that you know or meet on the beach. Registration begins at 1100hrs on the beach at Dorchester St.



Equipment Turn in Procedure for Full Time Employees Changing to Part-Time

If you live more than 30 miles away, you are required to turn in all equipment once you end your full-time status (available 7 days a week). If you are working part-time after this time, you will pick up equipment from HQ before you are scheduled for duty.

 **Keep your feet in the sand,
until the lifeguard's in the stand!**

OCBP License Plates

Listed below are the guidelines for receiving these special logo plates



Your vehicle must be registered in Maryland.
Pick up the MVA form VR-124 from Captain Arbin.

Fill out form completely.

Attach a check made payable to the Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Association (OCBPSRA) for \$50.00. This is a one-time fee and will not be charged again.

If you are requesting a specific number, make sure it is still available.

Return form to Beach Patrol Headquarters. Do not send or take to MVA—the form needs an authorizing signature to process.

Once the VR-124 form and check have been received, it takes 4-6 weeks to receive the tags. They will be mailed to the address on your registration.

In the future, you will receive the regular tag renewal application directly from the MVA every 2 years.

OCBP Question-of-the-Week for The Worcester County Times

This Week's Question: I noticed that the lifeguards clear the water and then walk backwards when leaving the beach for the night. Why do they do this?

Every Surf Rescue Technician (SRT/lifeguard) on the Ocean City Beach Patrol clears the water in front of their stand every evening between 5:20 and 5:30 p.m. All SRTs covering ten miles of beach, simultaneously will blow their whistles and point toward the west with their semaphore flags as an indication that the beach patrol is no longer on duty, prior to climbing down from the lifeguard tower for the evening. As the SRTs are calling everyone out of the water, many beach patrons will approach the stand and ask, "Why are you clearing the water?" This gives the SRT the opportunity to explain the dangers of swimming when the beach patrol is not on duty.

Our beach patrol has always made it a priority to let swimmers know when we were off duty. This includes published hours and a community supported education campaign. This procedure of clearing the ocean is to indicate to the bathers, still in the ocean, that the lifeguards are about to leave and should stop all water related activities for the day, in hopes that it will reduce the chance of after-hours drownings.

Surely before and after-duty drownings can occur on any beach. Like all beach patrols, we do everything we can to reduce these tragic occurrences. Clearly, public education is the key. We have found that both our public education efforts and the practice of calling all swimmers ashore before we get off duty has greatly reduced not only the number of off duty rescues (911 calls) but off duty drownings as well. By clearing the water prior to our departure, any swimmers who do re-enter the ocean know there is no longer a guard watching them. Clearing the water at the end of our shift may seem routine, but we must never take the goal of this policy lightly and in fact, Ocean City ordinance makes it illegal to remain in the ocean when a surf rescue technician has directed someone to leave the water. Before we started clearing the water of swimmers prior to going off duty at 5:30, it is very possible that a swimmer could have entered the water while guards were on duty, only to turn around and find the stands empty and pulled back for the night. In most cases this would not be a problem. However, if the swimmer were to become caught in a rip current, the situation could quickly take a tragic turn, despite their intentions to swim only under the watchful eyes of the beach patrol. In contrast, by pulling everyone out of the ocean before we leave the beach, we know that those who enter the water during unguarded hours are taking that risk knowingly. It is critical that we continue our efforts to educate the public, warning them of the dangers of swimming on unguarded beaches, and that we do whatever it takes to make sure people leave the ocean before we cross over the dune, leaving our beaches for the night.

As for walking backwards the SRTs are trained during Surf Rescue Academy to never turn their backs to the ocean and be aware of everything going on in their water. During this academy (which is similar to a military boot camp) all rookies are taught the necessary skills, techniques, procedures and protocols necessary to become a certified Surf Rescue Technician. The academy instructors, like drill sergeants, are constantly emphasizing and reminding the rookies of the critical importance to never turn their backs to the ocean. Returning SRTs receive the same treatment during their annual re-certification. Therefore, when you see a lifeguard walking backwards it is because they have chosen to continue what was emphasized in Surf Rescue Academy although walking backwards off the beach is not required at the end of their shift. Your SRT has probably continued this practice as a result of their pride and professionalism for their job. As you can see, the Ocean City Beach Patrol and the individual SRTs take the responsibility of guarding the beaches of Ocean City very seriously. We want you to have a safe and enjoyable stay at the beach and remember to "Keep your feet in the sand until the Lifeguard's in the stand!"

Meet the Lifeguard: CC Tom Lurie

Crew Chief Tom Lurie has been with the Beach Patrol for four years. He is in charge of Crew 10, which covers the beach from 63rd Street to 73rd Street. Tom is active as an instructor in the Junior Beach Patrol program and is a member of the OCBP Dive Team. He is also a United States Lifesaving Association member. In his free time, Tom likes to play lacrosse, surf, play guitar, and photography. He is currently pursuing photography and film production jobs and plans on traveling much of the winter.

CC Tom Lurie and the other lifeguards of the Ocean City Beach Patrol are glad to answer any of your beach and water safety questions.



August 9th Iron Guard Results

<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>
1 st – Joe Keefe	1 st – Frodo, Miller, Miller
2 nd – Ben Montes	2 nd – Krabbe, Brockmeyer, Wagner
3 rd – Yannick Stein Tremblay	3 rd – Otter, Norwalt, Eckert
4 th – Marcela Rojas (1 st Female)	4 th – Melanie, Sol, Chasse
5 th – Travis Sevier	5 th – S. Stang, McGrath, Vondersmith
6 th – Pat King	6 th – Leszczynski, Scholz, Cerf
7 th – Emmanuelle Ouellet	7 th – Irwin, Wojo, Kevin O'Malley
8 th – Flex Master Foy	8 th – Hillyer, Paquette, Desroches
9 th – Kevin Johnson	9 th – E. Stang, Dutch, A. Stang
10 th – Karen Hessler	
11 th – Claudine Courteau-Godmaire (Extra Lap)	

Results from the USLA Nationals

OCBP Sprint Relay Team--3rd Place

Justyn Zangwill
Derrick Snyder
Jack Stang
Charlie Schwartz

Rescue Race—16th Place

Kevin Stang
Colin Stang
Jack Stang
Chris Ashley (Bethany)

Paddle
Colin Stang

OCBPSRA 1 Mile Run		
8/14/13		
Name	Crew	Time
Nick Poist	6	6:46
Dundee Paquette	4	8:00
Marcela Rojas	2	6:46
Shelby Stang	6	7:29
Jordan Acton	2	6:15
Josh Wilder	3	6:00
Tommy Vondersmith	6	6:45
Joel Harrison	6	7:28
Michael Legath	6	7:28
Kelly McGrath	6	7:28



Event Results for Crew Comps-July 27, 2013

Event	Place	Crew
Run-Swim-Run Relay	Gold-1 st	12
	Silver-2 nd	1
	Bronze-3 rd	11
Rescue Board Relay	Gold-1 st	11
	Silver-2 nd	3
	Bronze-3 rd	1
Land Line	Gold-1 st	3
	Silver-2 nd	1
	Bronze-3 rd	4
Soft Sand Relay	Gold-1 st	12
	Silver-2 nd	6
	Bronze-3 rd	17
Tug-of-War	Gold-1 st	12
	Silver-2 nd	5
	Bronze-3 rd	2

<u>Overall</u>	<u>Results for</u>	<u>Crew Comps 2013</u>
Place	Crew	Total Points
1 st	Crew 12	41
2 nd	Crew 1	33
3 rd	Crew 3	25
3 rd	Crew 11	25
5 th	Crew 4	19
6 th	Crew 6	17
6 th	Crew 17	17
8 th	Crew 8	15
9 th	Crew 5	14
10 th	Crew 2	12
11 th	Crew 7	11
12 th	Crew 14	10
12 th	Crew 16	10
14 th	Crew 10	9
15 th	Crew 9	6
16 th	Crew 15	5
17 th	Crew 13	2



Look at these Attaboys!

Hello,

We have a place on 77th St. in OC. On June 29 we heard a scream from the water. I looked up and a female guard was already in the water. One second later, one more guard was in the water and another second later a third guard was on the scene. The two folks were out of the water in minutes. Very impressive! Ocean City has a reputation for top notch guards. That reputation is well earned. Thanks for keeping us safe.

Marilyn Neat

From: Karen Rebstock
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 12:51 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: Thank you

Wanted to thank your staff members for locating my son Keith Rebstock who is developmentally disabled & has a seizure disorder and who had wandered from 14th to 7th street on the Beach end of July. Your staff acted swiftly, professionally and compassionately and I am very grateful to have a happy ending to a scary scenario with their help.

Thank you-
Karen Rebstock

From: Jerry Back
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: To OC's Finest

Captain,

I watched Crew 6 save a man's life on Friday and had to share my sincere admiration of the members of Crew 6 and the OCBP as a whole. I've been coming to Ocean City for over 50 years (we won't go there) and have ALWAYS been impressed with the guys and girls in the stands. They have always been the cream of the crop and the visitors to OC owe your organization a debt gratitude.

As for Friday, I watched your guys fight to revive a man who was in cardiac arrest from the time he went down until he was loaded into the ambulance. Their professionalism and sheer determination was unprecedented. However, I walked away with a heavy heart thinking that no matter how hard your guys tried, it wasn't going to matter (I never saw movement). I saw their determination fade to sadness and disappointment as they too initially thought that the man had passed away. But, as you know, the ambulance radioed back that they had a pulse and that the patient was breathing on his own. Absolutely unbelievable and definitely one for the good guys!

In closing I'd like offer these final thoughts. Many people work their entire lives and never have an impact or made a difference to the world around them. Sad but true. So in the next week or so, as your guys/gals pack up their stuff and head back home and off to college, they should take pride in knowing that for the last three months of their lives, they all truly made a difference. That is a huge accomplishment for a bunch of young adults and demonstrates their potential for the future.

Thanks to you and your staff for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Jerry Back

From: Cathy.Cavalcante
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2013 1:18 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: Crew Chief Kevin Johnson

Dear Captain Arbin:
I just wanted to drop you a line and tell you well done in hiring Crew Chief Kevin Johnson!

I am so impressed with the service my handicapped daughter received from him over this past weekend.

Crew Chief Johnson went beyond his call of duty (with a bandaged foot I might add) in assisting my daughter onto the beach. This was the first time she was able to enjoy her 9 year old son play in the ocean, not only did it mean alot to her it meant more to her son and I just to watch the smile on her face!

People like Chief Johnson are hard to come by and I just wanted to let you know what a valuable person you have in your midsts.

Thank you again!

Regards,
Cathy Cavalcante
Operations Manager Mid-Atlantic Region

Doka USA, Ltd.
3665 Benson Avenue
21227 Baltimore, MD | USA
www.dokausa.com

From: Morrissey, Susan
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 8:01 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: OC BEACH PATROL...CREW 6

First off, let me say I live in NY and spend my summers in OC, Maryland. I have always been impressed by the guards here, but never as much as I was today. I witnessed first hand the amazing talent of Crew 6 in front of The Dunes Manor. As I am sure you have already heard, through the group efforts of so many guards, they revived a man who had apparently had a heart attack in his chair. Their response time and calm group effort clearly saved this man. Over the course of the past weeks I have watched Kelly and Paul do their job always with the utmost importance. (Unfortunately, I do not know all the guards names.) Today was a true testament of their capabilities and their amazing dedication. It is a true miracle that this man is alive thanks to the OCBP ☐

Regards,
Sue Morrissey

From: Morrissey, Susan [mailto:MorrisseyS@hauppauge.k12.ny.us]
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 8:01 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: OC BEACH PATROL...CREW 6

First off, let me say I live in NY and spend my summers in OC, Maryland. I have always been impressed by the guards here, but never as much as I was today. I witnessed first hand the amazing talent of Crew 6 in front of The Dunes Manor. As I am sure you have already heard, through the group efforts of so many guards, they revived a man who had apparently had a heart attack in his chair. Their response time and calm group effort clearly saved this man. Over the course of the past weeks I have watched Kelly and Paul do their job always with the utmost importance. (Unfortunately, I do not know all the guards names.) Today was a true testament of their capabilities and their amazing dedication. It is a true miracle that this man is alive thanks to the OCBP.

Regards,
Sue Morrissey

Science, Service, Stewardship



**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Marine Mammal Health and
Stranding Response Program



The Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response program was formalized by the 1992 Amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service as the lead agency to coordinate related activities.

The program has the following components: stranding networks, responses to and investigations of mortality events, biomonitoring, tissue and serum banking, and analytical quality assurance.

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/>

***Brucella* Infection in Marine Mammals (June 2012)**

What causes brucellosis?
Brucella spp. refers to a genus of bacteria that infect many terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates around the world. The disease, called brucellosis, is best known for its role in causing abortion in domestic livestock and undulant fever in people. The presence of *Brucella* in marine mammals was first recognized in the 1990's, and appears to be common in many marine mammal populations globally. The population level significance of *Brucella* in marine mammals is still unknown.

How are marine mammals affected by *Brucella* infection?
Brucella spp. has been isolated from seals, sea lions, whales, porpoises, and dolphins that appear healthy and are showing no signs of disease. In some cases, whales, dolphins, and porpoises have been known to develop these health related issues due to *Brucella* infection:

- Abortion
- Meningoencephalitis (brain infection)
- Pneumonia
- Skin infection (blubber abscesses)
- Bone infection

What types of *Brucella* are found in marine mammals?
Both *Brucella ceti* and *Brucella pinnipedialis* have been found in whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals and sea lions. Currently the genetic typing and identification of marine *Brucella* species is evolving and these species designations may change in the future as we learn more about the pathogens in marine organisms. Other species of *Brucella* have been detected in wild and domestic hoofed animals, carnivores including dogs, rodents and fish.

How does brucellosis spread among animals?
The primary method of spread between land mammals is through consumption of tissue and fluids left after delivery of a fetus. It can also be spread through inhalation, contact with a wound, and during nursing and breeding. We do not know how it is spread in marine mammals.

What should I do if I see a marine mammal stranded on the beach?
Do not approach or touch the animal. Keep your pets away from the animal as well. Remember these are wild creatures, for both your safety and theirs please keep a safe distance. Only trained marine mammal responders should handle the animal. If you think the animal may be in trouble, contact your local Marine Mammal Stranding Network. To find the contact information for your local network, visit: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/networks.htm>

Can I catch Brucellosis from swimming?
There are no reported cases where *Brucella* infection was associated with swimming. As a caution, people should not swim with open wounds or in the immediate area where a stranded animal is found.
For more information on *Brucella* and how it can be contracted by humans, please see the Center for Disease Control's website http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dzbd/diseaseinfo/brucellosis_q.htm