



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 (SRTs) available to staff the stands along the 10 miles of beach decreases. OCBP is committed to provide SRTs 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 beachfront. As this redistribution occurs the location and distance between stands changes (sometimes on a daily basis). This is known as a reduced coverage strategy 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 education professionals to school systems throughout the U.S. OCBP will have additional returning SRTs 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 the 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. OCBP believes these conditions warrant beach patrons taking extra precautions and walking the short distance to swim in the vicinity of an SRT on a stand.

OCBP will continue to provide coverage of all 10 miles of Ocean City beaches until Sunday, September 26. 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. The first priority of the Ocean City Beach Patrol continues to be public safety. OCBP strongly encourages all beach patrons to restrict any water related activities to times when OCBP personnel are on duty, never swim alone, always stay within the limits of their ability and never rely on a flotation device.

This is also the time when OCBP starts testing for new lifeguards for 2011 and begins focusing on staffing needs for next season. As OCBP plans for next season they will review statistics and data and will make decisions on the number and placement of lifeguard stands. To begin realizing recruiting goals OCBP held a test on August 14 and will hold the next pre-employment physical skills evaluations on Saturday, September 4. Those individuals who qualify will receive an appointment to a paid surf rescue academy in May or June 2011 where all training and certifications will be provided. 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 our website

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 SRT on a stand. Following this advice may save a life.....

YOURS!



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

