



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 (Lifeguards) 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 our education professionals to school systems throughout the United States. Many of our professional educators are required to return two weeks prior to Labor Day. In recent years we have seen a trend for both colleges and public school systems to begin classes prior to Labor Day. This change has dramatically impacted the availability of the majority of our 200 employees during the last weeks of summer. During the first week of reduced coverage we had 87% of our normal summer coverage and we will be dipping to 60% for the week days prior to Labor Day. We will have additional returning Surf Rescue Technicians to allow us 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, we will increase the number of Mobil Rescue Units patrolling the beach.

Further impacting this situation may be 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 (Lifeguard) on a stand.

Because of the dedication and commitment of these public servants, we will continue to provide coverage of all 10 miles of Ocean City beaches until Sunday, September 23, 2012. Although this coverage will be done with fewer personnel and less lifeguard towers, we will supplement this coverage by increasing the number of Mobil 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 10:00 am and 5:30 pm. 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. We strongly encourage 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 2012 season, this is also the time when we start testing for new lifeguards for 2013 and begin focusing on our staffing needs for next season. As we plan for next season we will review statistics and data and will make decisions on the number and placement of lifeguard stands. To begin realizing our recruiting goals we held a test on August 11th and will hold our next and possibly final pre-employment physical skills evaluations on Saturday, September 1st. Those individuals who qualify will receive an appointment to a paid Surf Rescue Academy in May or June 2013 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 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 Surf Rescue Technician (Lifeguard) on a stand. Following this advice 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!

