LS11 BEACH OPERATIONS
PURPOSE

To emphasise the need to supervise all activities in the beach environment (not just aquatic activities) and prioritise how Lifesaving Services Personnel should scan their beach.

PROCEDURE

Lifesaving surveillance priorities are as follows:

Primary Surveillance
1. Aquatic Activities between flagged areas (in swash, inner surf zone & breakers)
2. Aquatic Activities 200m either side of flagged areas (in swash, inner surf zone & breakers)

Secondary Surveillance
1. Aquatic activities occurring in the wave zone & beyond
2. All other beach based activities

The table below highlights the types of users at New South Wales beaches and the activities they partake in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>User</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>Sightseer, tourist</td>
<td>Road, car park, lookout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive-Active</td>
<td>Sun bakers, picnickers &amp; beach sports</td>
<td>Dry beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Beach walkers, joggers</td>
<td>Swash Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Fishers, swimmers</td>
<td>Swash, inner surf zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Surfers, water sports</td>
<td>Breakers &amp; surf zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Skis, kayaks, windsurfers</td>
<td>Breakers &amp; beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>IRB’s, boats &amp; other powercraft</td>
<td>Beyond breakers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Australian Beach Safety Management Program, A.D. Short

Activities that fall outside the normal realms of Lifesaving surveillance should be reported to the appropriate authority.

SEE ALSO:

SLSA Surf Life Saving Training Manual – Unit Twelve, Patrols
Local Operating Procedures
Purpose
To provide an understanding of the minimum roles and responsibilities a Lifesaving Service shall undertake within their beach operations while maintaining a level of service quality.

Beach Operations
1. Lifesaving Personnel shall ensure the flagged area is located in the safest possible area for swimming.
2. The flagged area should be opened as wide as possible where conditions and resources allow.
3. Lifesaving Personnel shall ensure the beach is in a safe and clean condition prior to setting up of the flagged area. Particular attention should be made to hazardous items such as broken glass, bottles, needle sticks, branches, floating debris, etc.
4. In a team situation Lifesaving Personnel shall not congregate in a central area.
5. In a team situation Lifesaving Personnel shall be assigned patrol duties, e.g., patrol waters edge, standby at IRB, perform public relations duties etc.
6. Lifesaving Personnel should rotate on a regular basis, i.e. every 20 minutes, to minimise fatigue or boredom and increase efficiency.
7. Non Lifesaving personnel are not permitted in a lifesaving arena except in an emergency.
8. Remote/outpost patrols shall be equipped with a basic first aid kit and hand held radio as well as minimum rescue equipment.
9. At least one Lifesaving personnel should be stationed in an elevated position (mobile tower / Lifeguard tower / high point on sand dunes etc) at all times during operation when swimmers are in the water and have the beach area under observation at all times.
10. Patrol flags and rescue equipment shall be positioned as close to the waters edge as possible (where possible)
11. Lifesaving Services personnel shall continue to move the patrol flags and equipment with the rise/fall of the tide.
12. Lifesaving Personnel shall ensure to patrol the waters edge (i.e. water line patrol activity whilst swimmers are in the water).
13. All active members in attendance at a ‘surf club’ may be called on to assist in a rescue situation.
14. Lifesaving Personnel are to promote an image of professionalism, vigilance and service at all times.
15. Where required, Lifesaving Personnel shall erect Council ordinance signage i.e. no dogs permitted.
**Patrol Captain/ Senior Lifeguard**

The Patrol Captain/Senior Lifeguard shall:-

1. Prior to the commencement of duty, check all previous log entries and liaise with the previous Patrol Captain/Lifeguard to identify any issues or hazards present.
2. Ensure all Lifesaving equipment is checked before duty with the assistance of others.
3. Select (based on training) the safest area of beach to erect the red and yellow flags, from an elevated observation point and/or physical test of the area (where permitted).
4. Dependant on conditions shall be responsible for the opening and closing of flagged areas and/or beaches.
5. Allocate responsibilities in case of emergency and/or rescue.
6. Ensure the positioning of lifesaving equipment inside/outside of the flagged area is in a manner that will not become harmful to the public.
7. Designate suitable areas for surfboard riders and/or boogie board riders.
8. Ensure a proper buffer zone exists between the surf craft area and the swimming area (10 metres approximately – where conditions permit).
9. Ensure that all Lifesaving Services Personnel take a pro-active approach to preventative measures i.e. warning the public of dangers, maintaining swimmers between the flags, placing of equipment in the vicinity of hazards etc.
10. Co-ordinate any search and rescue situation that may occur.
12. Ensure Council ordinance signage is erected (where required).
13. Be identified by displaying the words “Patrol Captain” or “Lifeguard” on patrol uniform.
14. Ensure the correct recording of information in log books, report forms etc.
15. Make themselves easily accessible to the general public to answer any general enquiries.
16. Hold the SLSA Basic Beach Management award.
17. Have with them a radio (hand held) at all times during patrol.
Lifesaving Services Personnel

Lifesaving Services personnel shall:

1. Practice the basic principles of PREVENTION, RECOGNITION, and RESCUE whilst on duty.
2. Sign on in the log book prior to commencing his/her operations.
3. Encourage swimmers to swim in between the red and yellow flags.
4. 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.
5. Be polite and courteous when advising swimmers to swim in between the red/yellow flags.
6. Encourage board riders do not impose on the swimming area.
7. Wear the correct uniform during their rostered times.
8. Remove their uniform at the completion of their operations.
9. Not leave the patrol area unless authorised by the Patrol Captain/Senior Lifeguard.
10. Always carry a rescue tube and whistle when patrolling the water’s edge.
11. Maintain their fluid intake during operations, especially on hot days.
12. Practice the basic principles of Sun Safety.
13. Always be polite and courteous when dealing with the public.
14. Wear the personal packs (bum bags).
15. Ensure all Lifesaving equipment is erected in a secure and safe manner.
16. Advise if feeling fatigued, ill or tired.
17. Check rescue equipment for damage or breakages and report such.
18. Advise members of the public that the beach is closed or 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/Senior Lifeguard.
Overview

Beach Management operational levels for each beach shall be based off a risk management approach using the Australian Beach Safety and Management Program (ABSAMP) and the SLSA Lifesaving Service Type Calculator.

All strengths and times shall be endorsed through the Lifesaving Service Agreement/Contracts annually.

In order to determine the Beach Management provision level the following steps are to be taken:

1. Find out what **ABSAMP Rating** for the beach is (1-3) or (4-10)
2. Determine what **Lifesaving Service Type** is required
3. Match up the **ABSAMP Rating** with **Lifesaving Service Type**

ABSAMP rating + Lifesaving service type = Beach Management operational level

**1. ABSAMP RATING**

All Beaches in Australia have an ABSAMP Rating based off the environmental risks that the beach has. To find out what this is contact SLSNSW.

**ABSAMP Rating 1-3**

The minimum fitness and skills for a beach that has an ABSAMP Modal rating of 1-3 should consist of the following:

- Bronze Medallion / Certificate II in Public Safety (aquatic rescue)
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate
- Senior First Aid
- Defibrillation
- SMPC / Basic Beach Essential / Lifeguard Induction
- RWC/IRBD (where applicable)

The minimum fitness level is

- 400m swim in 9 minutes
- SLSA Run/Swim/Run

*Where a Lifeguard is in a 1 person environment the minimum fitness level is

- 400m swim in 7.5 minutes (first 200m in 3 minutes) as part of an 800m swim
- SLSA Mission
**ABSAMP Rating 4-10**
The minimum fitness and skills for a beach that has an ABSAMP Modal rating of 4-10 shall consist of the following:

- Bronze Medallion / Certificate II in Public Safety (aquatic rescue)
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate
- Senior First Aid
- Defibrillation
- Spinal Management
- SMPC / Basic Beach Essential / Lifeguard Induction
- RWC/IRBD

All Lifeguards and 50% of Lifesavers must holder the SLSA Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue or complete the following:
- 400m swim in 7.5 minutes (first 200m in 3 minutes) as part of an 800m swim
- SLSA Mission

The minimum fitness level for 50% of Lifesavers in a team environment is
- 400m swim in 9 minutes
- SLSA Run/Swim/Run

**3. LIFESAVING SERVICE TYPE CALCULATOR**
The SLSA Lifesaving Service Type Calculator is used to determine the type of Lifesaving service required for any beach. Based off the calculator one of the following recommended Lifesaving Service Types will be calculated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Type of Lifesaving Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>Warning Signage to Aquatic &amp; Recreational Signage Style Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>Emergency Beacons and/or Camera Surveillance or Swimming Enclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Routine Monitoring / surveillance patrols (land, sea, air) to also be considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>Lifesaving Service Level 1 during period assessed (refer to note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>Lifesaving Service Level 2 during period assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>Lifesaving Service Level 3 during period assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;31</td>
<td>Lifesaving Service Level 4 during period assessed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: In the case of one Lifeguard being recommended, this service should only be implemented if the following requirements/infrastructure is in place:

- ABSAMP hazard is to be no higher than a 4; or
- Access to other rescue services is less than 5 minutes, direct with communication services is in place; and
- A 1 person vessel (RWC) is in place

Note 2: Where the number of people in the patrolled area is over 1000, the service provider should increase the number of Lifesaving personnel in line with the following table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># People</th>
<th>Additional Lifesavers</th>
<th>Additional Lifeguards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-5000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5000-10,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10,000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. BEACH MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS LEVEL

After completing the Lifesaving Service Type Calculator a rating will be given that determines the type of service. If the rating warrants a Level 1-4 Beach Service then the following scale is applied to determine the Lifesaving Service Provision Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Lifeguard</th>
<th>Lifesavers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apply the ABSAMP rating requirements with the number of Lifesavers/Lifeguards to establish what levels of operations are required for that beach.

i.e. An ABSAMP Rating of ‘2’ with the requirement of a ‘Level 2 type’ would require a minimum team of 4 Lifesavers which between them held the qualifications of an ABSAMP (1-3) Beach.

Use of other members in volunteer operations

Clubs are encouraged to include proficient Surf Rescue Certificate Holders (as extras) on rostered patrols to gain experience and improve their skills. These members are required to wear the standard patrol uniform during patrol. (Refer to SLSA Patrol Uniform Policy).

Proficient Award members may be utilised on beach patrols however shall not be permitted to wear the red and yellow cap. Award members are encouraged to wear a peaked or wide brimmed hat and have the award they hold clearly marked on their patrol shirt.

Financial members in training for their Bronze Medallion may be used on Patrol under the guidance of a mentor. The conditions of their patrolling are as per the SLSA Bronze Medallion Workbook.

“Other Members” will not count towards meeting the minimum qualification requirements listed above.
Purpose

To outline the minimum types and placement of rescue equipment and lifesaving personnel for beach operations.

Policy

Lifesaving personnel and qualifications (minimum)

A volunteer surf club patrol shall consist of the following minimum personnel:

- 3 x Volunteer Bronze Medallion qualified Patrol Members, including;
- 1 x Current ARC
- 1 x Current IRB Driver
- 1 x Silver Medallion (Basic Beach Management)
- 1 x Current IRB Crew

Uniform must meet the minimum standards (SLSA shirt, shorts, quartered cap and peak cap/wide brim hat). Members wishing to wear a jacket on patrol are to wear an approved SLSA jacket. Members are advised that at no time is a SLSA patrol shirt to be worn whilst in an IRB (unless wearing a PFD).

Lifesaving Equipment (minimum)

Lifesaving equipment shall be functional, available for immediate use and in position at the scheduled time and remain on duty throughout the duration of the operational hours.

A volunteer surf club on duty should set-up their beach with the following:

1. RWC/IRB with orange cones around the area (where applicable)
2. Powercraft information sign (where a RWC/IRB is present)
3. Main beach access information board
4. ATV/Vehicle (where applicable)
5. Tower or Shade
6. 1 Rescue Board and 6 Rescue Tubes
7. 1 Defibrillator, Oxy Resuscitation Kit and First Aid Kit
8. 1 pair of binoculars
9. Red and Yellow feathered flags
10. Blue Board Riding Signs/Flags (where applicable)
11. 3 handheld radios

N.B. Clubs and Branches may raise the minimum requirements above the State requirements outlined.
Equipment placement
Equipment should be placed as follows:

- Patrol flags shall be placed no more than 15 metres from the water at any stage.
- Rescue Tubes are to be placed on Rescue Board stand (or on Rescue Board), at the waters edge. They should also be available at the Lifesaving arena base and/or vehicle. Tubes must also be carried when on roving patrols.
- Rescue Boards are to be placed on waters edge in the most appropriate area and in the ‘ready’ position.
- IRB to be placed a minimum of 20m away from the flags creating a buffer zone and no more than 30 metres from the waters edge.
- Mobile First Aid Kits, Oxygen Resuscitation Kit, Spinal Equipment, water and AED Kit are to be kept in the Arena/ATV – easily accessible at all times (This should include splints and other accessories).
- Other equipment should be placed with consideration to local operational requirements.

Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) specific

- The IRB should be positioned on the beach near to the base on the waters edge in such a position that it can be launched & recovered quickly without posing a risk to beach visitors and/or Lifesaving personnel.
- The IRB should be left on trailer, with bow facing inland.
- Where possible, a section of beach should be sectioned off with witches’ hats and signage to separate the risks of launching & recovering IRB’s & RWC’s.

Standard Outpost Patrol Set-up
Lifesaving Services with primarily 1 or 2 on duty for an outpost patrol should set-up their beach with the following:

1. Main access information board
2. Tower or Shade (with standard first aid kit)
3. 1 Rescue Tube and Board
4. Maintain 1 Lifesaving Service personnel at the waters edge when persons are in the water
5. Red and Yellow feathered flags
6. Blue Board Riding Signs (optional)

* All outpost patrols must be in radio communication at all times.
**Standard Beach Closed Set-up**

Lifesaving Services that have closed their beach due to inclement weather, dangerous conditions or similar should set-up their beach with the following:

1. IRB (available to response not necessarily at waters edge)
2. Powercraft information sign (where an IRB is present)
3. Main access information boards (Wording ‘Beach Closed’)
4. ATV/Vehicle (available to response not necessarily on beach)
5. 1 Rescue Board and Tube readily available

**Special Set-up**

Due to the conditions it may warrant rescue equipment to be set-up a distance from the beach along the waters edge. If this is the case then the following should apply:

1. Information sign or prohibition sign
2. 1 Rescue Tube and Board

**Reference**

Lifesaving Service Agreements
LS11. Beach Operations
OPENING OF BEACH

General

Lifesaving Personnel in most areas are required to determine the safety of the selected patrol area and the most appropriate method & efficient deployment of equipment & 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 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 water’s edge.

Establishing a flagged area

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

General:
- size/distance of area to be patrolled
- number of patrons
- skill level(s) of patrons
- type of activities
- recreational equipment in use (slides, toys, inflatables, etc.)
- potential hazards (i.e. rocks, sudden drop off, etc.)
- the number of personnel on duty
- the type and amount of equipment available
- other tasks required of the Lifesaving personnel
- facilities available to the Lifesaving Services
- safety and emergency support operations
- communications systems (access to support/emergency services)

Beach:
- beach type
- prevailing conditions (weather, swell, tide, seas)
- ABSAMP safety rating
Equipment

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

Any damaged or missing equipment shall be reported in the Log and essentially the Lifesaving Supervisor.

Status report/sign on

Patrol Captains/Senior lifeguards are required to report into SurfCom (or similar) when they have opened their beach.

When signing on the following details must be provided at the start of your patrol:

- Number of operational personnel
- Additional Operational equipment available (separate from minimum)
  - 4WD
  - ATV
  - Defibrillator
- Beach status (Open/Closed)
- Number of operational radios
- Number of surf craft
- In-water and On-beach headcounts
- Any prevalent & notable local conditions

SEE ALSO:

Local Operating Procedures
Signage
Aquatic Activity Zoning
Surf Craft Management
Local Law Enforcement
Controlling risk taking behaviour
Effects of Water Depths on Aquatic Safety
Equipment Check Purpose
Placement of Rescue Equipment
Towers
OPERATIONAL BRIEFINGS

(Start of)

No: LS 11.6
Section: LS 11
Date: 20th August 2007

Purpose

To outline the benefits of a “start of patrol briefing” and provide guidelines for topics to be covered.

Introduction

Good beach management requires good communication. A start of patrol briefing provides an excellent tool for planning and preparation and the identification of possible problems.

In a Lifeguard Situation this may be done by the Lifeguard Supervisor.

Protocol

A start of operations briefing should:

- Include all Lifesaving Personnel
- Invite input and questions at any stage (open forum)
- Utilise visual aids – whiteboards / maps etc
- Utilise/Reference the Beach Management Plan and SOP’s
- Identify any new personnel that may require a full induction
- Pair up new/inexperienced personnel with experienced personnel

An operational briefing may cover:

- 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)
- Roles and Responsibilities
- 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
- Radio communications (SurfCom / Channels)

Briefing should always end with a Question and Answer session.
OPERATIONAL BRIEFINGS
(Change-over)

No: LS 11.7
Section: LS 11
Date: 20th August 2007

Purpose
To provide an outline of topics to be covered when briefing an incoming Lifesaving Services who may be taking over duties on any given day.

Policy
At the change the most senior Lifesaving Personnel should liaise with each other to ensure a flow of information is passed. This at a minimum should be:

- Human Resources
- History of Incidents
- History of flags being moved (if applicable)
- History of conditions (applicable to situation)
- Current risks (people, rocks, environment etc)
- Equipment status/history

Lifesaving Services should have a procedure with other Lifesaving Services in their area for the briefing of information pre and post their operational times. This should be through the documenting of information in a place available to all parties.
CLOSING OF OPERATIONS

No: LS 11.8
Section: LS 11
Date: 20th August 2007

Purpose

To outline best-practice procedure for closing a flagged location for the day.

Background

The closing of a flagged area at the end of the day requires good communication to ensure a safe transition from supervised swimming to unsupervised swimming.

Process

1. Identify whether extended times are required due to patronage/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 operations to adjacent areas to inform public of closure
6. Repeat communication of closure and warning of hazard to remaining swimmers if required.
7. Maintain surveillance of water by Lifesaving personnel while equipment is packed up for the day
8. Maintain a Rescue Tube on-standby while the equipment is packed up for the day
9. Conduct final sweep of surf area before packing up standby equipment.
10. Prepare After-hour / Callout Response equipment

Guidelines for After Hour / Callout Preparedness

Equipment

- Two rescue tubes and two sets of fins should be located in a known and easily accessible location at the Lifesaving Services venue (i.e. Clubhouse).
- At least one Powercraft should be fully set up (or close to it) with a full tank of fuel located in an accessible location (where possible).
- An ATV (if applicable) should be fuelled and positioned “ready to go”.
- The O2/Resus Kit and AED Kit should be easily accessible either on the ATV or in the first aid room.
Radios

- Two radios with aqua bags should be on charge and easily accessible by lifesaving Services Personnel.
- One radio should always be turned on and located where it can be heard by Lifesaving Services personnel if staying within a facility.

This is so that lifesaving Services Personnel responding to an incident can quickly contact SurfCom and utilize radio communication for the management of the incident (plus be able to communicate with additional lifesaving/emergency services that arrive following)

SEE ALSO: Emergency Response
Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide guidelines for the safety management of vehicular traffic on beaches.

General

Driving on beaches should only be permitted:
- where the beach surface structure supports the weight of vehicles
- where there are no roads
- in an emergency, and
- as approved by the local regulating authority

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.

Beach Access

There should be no beach access for vehicles where driving on the beach is prohibited.

Cross beach launching of boats may encourage driving on beaches.

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 precautions should be taken

- poor visibility (sun on sand, and 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 into the sea
- 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
- sand tyre pressures:
  - For beach driving a reduction in tyre pressure to 136kpa (18-21psi) is recommended
  - tyres deflated to half normal pressure are safe at only 40kph or so & even then won’t respond to braking or steering as accurately
Finding the correct pressure is largely trial & error for a particular vehicle with a particular load, but most put lower limit at 16psi. Never drive on roads at these pressures!

- Sand bogs:
  - Tow using a web snatch - an elastic webbing robe that whips the car out of the bog
  - Shovel out smooth ramps in front of each tyre first
  - "Road build" with the vehicle jack using rocks, timber, shrubbery or sand and a winch is very helpful here

- Cars should not drive in water deeper than half the height of its wheels
- Proceed as close to the waterline as is practical and safe
- Stay below the most recent high water mark

**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

**Rules of the “Road”**

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

1. Vehicles should have a current and valid registration
2. Drivers must have a current and valid:
   a. Drivers license for the vehicle type, and a
   b. Permit to drive on a beach
3. Pedestrian swimmers and bathers have the right of way over all vehicles
4. Wildlife has the right of way over all vehicles
5. Vehicles should not be driven:
   a. Above the high water mark
   b. In dune systems
6. Seat belts must be worn at all times
7. Passengers should not be carried on the outside of the vehicle
8. Keep to the left of oncoming vehicles
9. Use indicators when overtaking or turning
OUTPOST PATROLS

No: LS 11.10
Section: LS 11
Date: 20th August 2007

Purpose
To provide minimum requirements for the provision of roving an outpost patrols

Policy
Where beaches permit the provision of outpost patrols, Lifesaving Services should co-ordinate with neighboring Lifesaving Services to cover the area without a duplication of resources while maintaining efficient operations.

All permanently identified outpost patrol should be documented within the Lifesaving Service Agreements/contracts.

Equipment
The minimum equipment for outpost patrols shall be as follows:

- Set of Patrol Flags
- Rescue Tube
- Rescue Board
- Mobile First Aid Kit
- Radio/s
- Spinal Board
- Shade (for Lifesaving personnel)
EFFECTS OF WATER DEPTH ON AQUATIC SAFETY

Purpose

To provide guidance for Lifesaving Services personnel while setting up the beach area and also monitoring conditions throughout their operation.

Procedure

The principles outlined below should be used as guidelines when opening the beach, placing the flags and also completing beach report boards.

Rip & Surf Zone Current Velocity

- Rip Feeder & Long shore Currents travel at 0.5 – 1.5 m/sec (2-5 km/hr)
- Rip currents under average wave conditions (< 1.5m high) attain maximum velocities of 1.5m/sec (5.4km/hr)

Water Depth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safest</th>
<th>Knee Depth</th>
<th>Can Walk against a strong rip current</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderately Safe</td>
<td>Waist Deep</td>
<td>Can maintain footing in a strong rip current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsafe</td>
<td>Chest Deep</td>
<td>Unable to maintain footing in rip current</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

- Olympic swimmers can swim at 7km/hr
- An average rip in a surf zone 50m wide can carry someone outside the breakers in as little as 30 seconds
- Advise swimmers to keep their feet on the sand at all times
- What is shallow and safe for an adult can be deep and distressing for a child