



## Circular 081:07:08

**To:** SW Region Club Captains / Lifesaving Service Managers  
SW Region Club Presidents SW Region Club Secretaries  
SW Region Powercraft Officers  
Coastwatch Radio & Marine Rescue Squad Ocean Grove  
AMSAR Groups SW Region Radio Officers

**cc:** Bellarine District Officer South Barwon District Officer  
Otway District Officer Regional Officers  
State Lifesaving Communications Officer  
State Powercraft Officer State Emergency Management Officer

**From:** Matthew Ponsford  
Regional Officer – South West Region

**Date:** 22 July 2008

**Subject:** Exercise Lonsdale 2008 - South West Region SAR Exercise

**Action:** Register interest with Regional Officer by Friday, 15 August

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In both October 2006 and October 2007, a number of South West Region Clubs participated in 'Operation Lonsdale' which is a Search and Rescue exercise, coordinated via the Borough of Queenscliffe's Municipal Emergency Management Committee – with the Australian Volunteer Coastguard (Queenscliff) taking a lead role in organising this.

Another Search and Rescue exercise is planned for October 2008 with a wide range of emergency services and government agencies involved and hopefully the Water Police providing a Marine Rescue Coordinator to control the Exercise.

### **Brief Overview**

It is a multi-agency response and recovery exercise, within a given Maritime disaster scenario in the vicinity of the coastal regions of Point Lonsdale to Point Nepean (Port Phillip Heads) and SE to Barwon Heads.

### **Purpose / Aim**

To enable a disaster response and recovery operation with the involvement of the Borough of Queenscliffe MEMPC, exercising all agencies and to promote interoperability and development of Disaster Management within the Borough of Queenscliffe.

Even though the exercise is centred on the Bellarine area, all South West Region Clubs that are interested in participating in this exercise are welcome to attend, as at present this

is the only formal Search and Rescue Exercise that we have access to in the Region and will benefit all Clubs, no matter what your location is.

On Thursday, 28 August, a Desktop Exercise will be held at CFA Queenscliff (Learmonth Street) commencing at 7.30 pm and concluding at 9.00 pm. One member from each LSV Club / Service should attend this 'dry run through' of the Exercise so that you are familiar with what is expected.

Exercise Lonsdale 2008 will be conducted on Saturday, 18 October, from 10.00 am to 2.30 pm.

Notes for LSV involvement –

- I hope that as much as possible, this exercise will test our readiness to respond to incidents out of hours, therefore you should ensure that LSV Comms has an up to date and accurate copy of your out of hours contact details. This information is how LSV Comms contact Clubs out of hours (contact Greg Scott at LSV to update your information). You should also ensure that patrol uniform is worn, that your lifesaving equipment is safe and fully ready / operational, eg. Radios are charged, adequate fuel etc.
- Due to delays in response from Clubs some distance from the area (and the desire to involve as many Clubs as possible), most likely LSV resources will be staged at the Point Lonsdale SLSC.
- LSV Comms will hopefully be involved.
- As would normally happen also, the Regional Officer will be contacted and will either assume the role of LSV Commander or delegate this to another appropriate person.
- We will follow all normal LSV SOPs etc.
- As there are no patrols in operation during this period, all members in IRBs are required to wear PFDs.
- Coastwatch Ocean Grove are invited to take an active role this year/

I hope to be able to provide further information after I have attended the Coordinators Conference, to be held in late July and will forward information / updates via e-mail to those that have replied.

**For additional detail on this Circular contact:**

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