

Circular 295:04:01

To: Club Presidents
 Club Secretaries
 Active Members
 Area Lifesaving Operations Officers
 Club Captains
 Patrol Captains
 MSAR Services

Cc: LSOC Executive
 LSOC State Offices
 LSOC Delegates
 LSV Board of Directors

From: Kane Treloar – Director, Lifesaving Services

Date: 01 April 2020

Subject: Lifesaving Services Move to Emergency Response

Action: Review, act and disseminate information AND update/confirm emergency response contacts

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For additional details on this Circular please contact:
 Lifesaving Operations on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lsv.com.au
Circulars are available at www.lsv.com.au/circulars

Key messages

- Lifesaving Services to move to emergency response ONLY
- Life Saver 30 (LSV's helicopter), RWCs, and Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) units will continue to operate
- Government advice to Victorians is very clear that **if you can stay home, you must stay home**
- The health and safety of our members is our priority during this time
- For further information, and the latest advice, please refer to: <https://lsv.com.au/healthalerts/>

Lifesaving Service Modifications

From this weekend, lifesaving services across the state will move to providing reactive emergency response activity. This will effectively finish our standard lifesaving patrol season – scheduled to continue until 13 April (Easter Monday) and we advise that all lifesaving clubs must now close and activities cease except for emergency response services.

This follows the announcement by the Premier of the Stage 3 measures to contain the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the closure of a number of beaches by local governments.

Government direction to Victorians is very clear that if you can stay home, you must stay home.

People shouldn't be gathering in groups of more than two people, heading to the beach or into the water while we are all facing a different kind of danger in COVID-19.

Swimming for the public at this time is not advised, and if they choose to swim they do so at their own risk.

Police will also be proactively patrolling places of mass gathering including beaches, to ensure restrictions are being complied with and individuals breaking this order face on-the-spot fines.



What does this mean?

For our clubs and members, this means that all standard patrolling services will end for the 2019/20 patrol season.

If an emergency incident occurs, and we are asked to provide search and rescue services, the club may be tasked through the emergency response call out process activated by the State Duty Officer, with the assistance of LIMSOC (refer to [SOP 5.06 – Emergency Callouts & Response](#)).

Only emergency response members should be accessing the club during this stage of the Pandemic. As previously advised, there should no longer be any club activity outside those activities to ensure the emergency response activity, together with any essential facility and equipment maintenance.

Emergency Response Contacts

In order to assist in ensuring that the clubs remain ready to respond to a search and rescue incident, LIMSOC maintains up to 10 emergency contacts that are paged to respond in an incident. LSV will be updating these lists for Clubs ahead of the coming weekend.

The Volunteer Support Officers (VSOs) will be sending out the existing lists in LIMSOC to Club Captains and Club Secretaries, and you will be asked to update or confirm these ASAP. We ask that you ensure that the emergency list includes members as follows:

- a) 18 years or older and less than 65 years of age;
- b) Not in an at risk category for COVID-19 (refer to links for more information on at risk categories); and
- c) Are living / working near to the club to be able to respond.

What do I need to do as a Club Captain/Club Secretary?

If the details are required to be updated, please use the electronic Emergency Response Contact Form: <https://lifesavingvictoria.wufoo.com/forms/zxk1ww00kapgd3/>

If they are not required to be updated, then please reply directly back to your VSO and confirm they are to remain.

What Lifesaving Services will still be operating?

As an emergency service, we will continue to provide vital emergency response services including;

- Marine search and rescue services (MSAR);
- Standby Rescue Water Craft (RWC or Jetski); and
- Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service.

These are services that we operate throughout the year outside of the main lifesaving season. LSV will continue to do this to achieve our mission to protect lives in and around the water in the current circumstances.

Safety

The health and safety of our dedicated members, volunteers and the wider community has always been our priority during this pandemic. LSV will continue to seek advice from the Department of Health and Human Services, Emergency Management Victoria and other expert resources to support our members throughout this situation.

For more information about LSV's latest advice to members about the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts.

If you have any questions on the above, please contact Lifesaving Operations team on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lsv.com.au.

