

SOP 1.07 – Beach Closure

Section 1 – Volunteer Patrol Operations

Page 1 of 2

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Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To outline the minimum equipment and personnel requirements when there is a perceived danger to the swimming public and a beach closure is required.

Scope

This procedure applies to all patrolling operations.

Procedures

A beach closure should be implemented when heightened danger to the swimming public exists, e.g. shark sighting, pollution event, electrical storm or dangerous surf conditions.

A pollution event includes poor water quality as advised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or as determined by the Patrol Captain should the conditions be obviously and visibly polluted.

The beach should be closed when the Patrol Captain is not comfortably satisfied that they are able to ensure the safety of the public or lifesavers when they enter the water.

Minimum equipment on a closed beach shall be:

- 1 rescue tube with fins and / or rescue board
- 1 Swimming not advised warning sign
- 2 patrolling members
- Flags to be removed

To be available on the beach within two minutes:

- 1 rescue board
- 1 rescue tube and swim fins
- 1 operational inflatable rescue boat (IRB)

At least two of the patrol members must be allocated to observe the beach, warn swimmers that they should not enter the water and to be ready in the case of an emergency during patrol hours.

Members are not required to be physically on the beach whilst undertaking these observations but should under the direction of the Patrol Captain identify an appropriate location to observe the water. This will be dependent on number of beach goers, weather and other factors.

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LSVComms must be notified of a beach closure and the reason.

Minimum patrol strength as defined in [SOP 1.1 Volunteer Patrol Roles and Responsibilities](#) must be observed. Should large numbers of the public insist on swimming when a beach is closed, a patrol captain should give serious consideration to re-opening the beach in the safest area possible depending on the reason for closure and level of risk.

LSVComms must be notified when a beach is re-opened (refer [SOP 1.4 – Patrol Equipment Requirements](#) for minimum equipment and for personnel requirements as full patrol refer to [SOP 1.1 Volunteer Patrols Roles and Responsibilities](#)).

