

# SOP 1.10 – Hot Weather and Heat Waves

Section 1 – Volunteer Patrol Operations

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Effective Date – 1 September 2018

Review Date – 1 September 2020

Electronically Controlled Document

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## Purpose

To outline the procedures for hot weather patrols

## Scope

All areas of Life Saving Victoria

## Procedures

### Wildfire / Heatwave Response Plan

LSV's Wildfire / Heatwave Response Plan comes into place when either a Code Red, Extreme or Severe fire danger rating is announced in the area of any LSV Club, Service or Event.

During Code Red (catastrophic days), clubs listed below should advise their members to leave the night before if they believe that their location is unsafe or if there are fire threats to their area.

- Aireys Inlet (includes Fairhaven SLSC)
- Andersons Inlet (includes Inverloch and Venus Bay SLSCs)
- Anglesea (Anglesea SLSC and Point Roadknight Lifeguard)
- Breamlea (Bancoora SLSC)
- Jan Juc (Jan Juc SLSC)
- Lorne (Lorne SLSC)
- Mallacoota (Mallacoota SLSC)
- Rye (Gunnamatta SLSC)
- Sandy Point (Waratah Beach SLSC)
- Wye River (Wye River and Kennett River SLSCs)

If members choose to remain in the area to offer a lifesaving service, then they must have easy and ready access to a designated Neighbourhood Safer Place, which is in their immediate area.

If a fire threat occurs when the beach is patrolled, the Patrol Captain should consider closing the Beach (and advise the public if doing so) and advise members and the public of the location of the Neighbourhood Safer Place

#### Lifesaving Operations Officers to ensure:

- On patrol days clubs will have sufficient manpower and resources.
- On non-Patrol days, consideration for operating extra lifesaving services for the Public. Advise LSVComms at Sign on / sign off.

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- Consider possible power outages and road closures which may affect delivery of lifesaving services.
- Clubs with DHHS Wildfire Kits to ensure Patrol Captain knows their purpose and can access if required.

## Heat Health Alert

When a Heat Health Alert is issued, LSV encourages lifesaving clubs to continue to communicate heat health safety messages to club members and the local community. Include the website where these are listed – <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/heatwaves-alert.htm>

The Department of Health issues these alerts in order to allow you to make any preparations necessary to respond to heatwave conditions given the many impacts hot weather can have on human health, normal operations and essential services.

## Special Events

When clubs are running or are part of a special event which is scheduled for a date which has been classed as an Extreme/Severe heat wave day, the club should consider the procedures they have in place. Clubs can also refer to [The Guidelines for Safer Surf Clubs – Event Sanctioning and Management Document](#) and the [Sports Medicine Australia Hot Weather Guidelines](#). Particularly if the event is a fun run, the club may consider modifying or rescheduling the event, either earlier in the day or on a different date.

It is recommended that the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is the best measure of heat strain currently available. WBGT is not the same as ambient or 'dry' temperature as the WBGT accounts for levels of humidity, radiation, wind movement and ambient temperature.

WBGT can be measured on site immediately prior to the start of an activity or event using a specific WBGT thermometer. This is done to ensure measurements are reflective of the conditions at which the event is to be conducted.

Any events conducted should be in line with Sports Medicine Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines.

## Non-compulsory Volunteer Patrols

When extreme heat is forecast, the LSV Director – Lifesaving Services may request lifesaving clubs to sign on non-compulsory voluntary patrols to cater for the anticipated increase in numbers on the beach on these days. This forms part of LSV's increased flexibility in service delivery.

Any patrol undertaken needs to sign on with LSVComms with adequate first aid equipment, however the patrol strength and times do not have to meet the Club's Lifesaving Services Protocol.

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