

# SOP 5.01 – Crowd Control Procedures

Section 5 – Emergency Operations

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Electronically Controlled Document

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## Purpose

To outline the procedures in dealing with the general public in the event of an emergency situation.

## Scope

All operational levels of Life Saving Victoria.

## Procedures

On beaches, control of the public is essential, especially when a rescue or major first aid is being performed.

Unintentional interference by onlookers may put the lives of rescuers and patients in danger and prevent the operation from running smoothly.

It is natural, when an incident occurs, for people to gather around the scene. The Patrol Captain should allocate at least one patrol member to manage the public in the first instance. Following the initial response if further resources are required for crowd control the police should be contacted by LSVComms to provide assistance in managing onlookers.

Resources that may be used in managing the public may include:

- A Loudhailer,
- Clubs public address system
- Rope or other physical barriers i.e. a towel.

It is most important to have a clear area to work, and people must be kept back during the incident to enable appropriate care of patients.

Patrol Members allocated the tasks of crowd control should always be polite and courteous when dealing with the public but must remain in control in their endeavours to keep the public at a safe distance.

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