

Cameron County Beach Patrol

Operations

2014 Report

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cameron County Beach Patrol is to provide a professional lifeguard service to Cameron County Beaches through the direct prevention of and response to aquatic accidents and through public education and training.

Changes from 2013 Season

- Hierarchy structure
 - Implemented to set standards protocols in areas of responsibility for each individual employee
- Tighter physical requirements than the USLA national standard to qualify
 - Swim 500 meters under 9 minutes for new lifeguards vs the USLA standard of 10 minutes
 - Swim 1000 meters under 18 minutes for returning guards vs the USLA standard of 20 minutes
- American Red Cross “Responding to Emergencies (RTE): Comprehensive CPR/First Aid/AED” certifications
 - RTE is a 30 hour course with no additional cost compared to the 9 hour course “First Aid/AED/CPR for the Professional Rescuer”
 - In-depth training on common procedures performed by first responders
- Internal dispatching system
 - In-house designed templates for information documentation
 - In-house communications training
 - Radio protocols set with Cameron Sheriff’s Dispatch and SPI Fire Dept. dispatch.
- Digital filing of medical records
- Cameron County Beach Patrol Manual
 - Adapted from the Galveston Island Beach Patrol manual
 - Tailored and formatted to fit SPI beaches
 - Screened through Legal to assure manual is within the confines of Cameron County policies and procedures
- Supervisor/Senior Guard training
 - Emergency driver training course
 - Emergency management scenario training
 - Policies and Procedures training
- Beach Rescue Interagency Team Exercises (B.R.I.T.E.)
 - Coast Guard/SPI Fire Department interagency exercises
- Lifeguard enforced no swim zone next to the jetties due to a permanent rip current

In addition to the initial training required for all lifeguards, supervising and administrative staff received the training needed for efficient and effective emergency management. Driving courses, interagency exercises, and effective communications training helped supervisors maintain an effective control through a variety of emergencies that occurred in the field.

Program Structure

- **Duration**
 - March 8th through March 16th (Spring Break)
 - April 1st through September 1st
- **Staff**
 - 37 Lifeguards (19 Returning, 18 Rookies)
 - 4 Dispatchers
- **Lifeguard Training**
 - Tighter physical requirements than the USLA national standard to qualify
 - Swimming 500 meters under 9 minutes for new lifeguards vs the USLA standard 10 minutes
 - Swimming 1000 meters under 18 minutes for returning lifeguards vs the USLA standard 20 minutes
 - 30 hour Red Cross Responding to Emergencies: Comprehensive First Aid/CPR/AED training and certification
 - 30 hour United States Lifesaving Association open water lifeguarding
 - USLA is the national gold standard for open water lifeguarding
 - 16 hour medical/rescue training for returning lifeguards
 - 20 hour supervisor/senior guard training
 - Emergency Management Training
 - Emergency Vehicle Driver Course
 - Radio Communication
 - 4 hours Boater's Education (Administrative Staff/Supervisors/Senior Guard)
 - 40 hours PWC operation training (Administrative Staff/Supervisors/Senior Guard)
 - NIMS training for administrative staff and supervisors
- **Lifeguarded Beaches**
 - 12 total lifeguard towers
 - Isla Blanca Park: 7 lifeguard towers
 - Andy Bowie Park: 3 lifeguard towers
 - County Beach Access 3: 1 lifeguard tower
 - County Beach Access 4: 1 lifeguard tower
 - Patrol units in Isla Blanca and in Andy Bowie/3/4 (South and North)
- **Unguarded Beaches**
 - Response only
 - 911 Calls go directly to either SPI Fire Dept. or Cameron Sherriff's Dept.
 - Either agency who receives the call notifies CCBP
 - County Beach Access 5

- County Beach Access 6
- County Bay Accesses

Statistics

- 2013 vs 2014

Call Type	2013	2014
Major Medical	29	57
Minor Medical	237	311
Rescues	26	56
Lost Children	91	231
Preventative Actions	158	6043
P.D. Assistance	4	13

- 2014 Detailed

2014 Summer Season					
Call Type	May	June	July	August	TOTAL
Citizen/Motorist Assist	0	0	2	0	2
Enforcement Action	0	10	1	2	13
Jellyfish Sting	27	52	41	7	127
Lost Child	11	85	98	37	231
Major Medical	1	17	18	21	57
Minor Medical	15	50	76	39	180
Missing Person	1	5	4	6	16
Moving Swimmers	44	678	459	107	1288
Moving Swimmers Away From Rocks	302	1402	1597	1188	4489
Stingray Sting	1	0	2	1	4
Swimmer in Distress	6	25	19	6	56
Water Safety Talk	21	50	127	62	260
Welfare Check	1	1	3	1	6