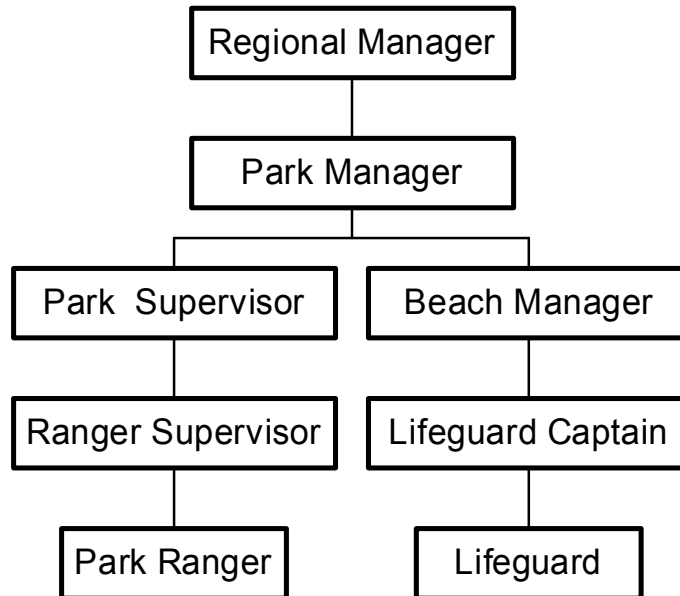


EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES ON STATE BEACHES

Note: See also: RI DEM, Division of Parks & Recreation,
Beach Operation Manual: Directives and Guidelines for Personnel

Operational Relationships
Responding to accidents, Complaints and Emergencies
 Emergency Duties of a Beach Manager
 Emergency Duties of a Captain/Assistant Captain of the Lifeguards
Emergency Signals
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OPERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



RESPONDING TO ACCIDENTS, COMPLAINTS AND EMERGENCIES

- The Beach Manager, Lifeguard Captain, and Level III Ranger, if available, shall respond immediately to any accidents, injuries, complaints, or emergencies that occur at the State Beaches. They must promptly identify the nature of a complainant's problem, injury, or emergency and initiate appropriate action to address the problem.
- If outside law enforcement is required, staff (preferably a Level III Ranger) shall call the Dispatcher for the DEM Division of Law Enforcement in Providence (222-3070) to request the assistance of a DEM Environmental Police Officer (EPO). If an EPO is not readily available, then request the assistance of the State Police.

Local Police assistance should not be requested unless the emergency is dire and unless Local Police would provide the most expedient, necessary response.

- Once a situation has been defused and contained, the Beach Manager, Lifeguard Captain, or Level III Ranger must ensure that accurate reports (Case Reports, Incident Reports, First Aid Reports etc.) are completed and submitted to the Regional Manager. These reports must be full and detailed, with the facts of each incident based on objective observations rather than speculation.

Emergency Duties of a Beach Manager include:

- Inspect all safety equipment. Ensure its accessibility and serviceable condition. A daily equipment check verification must be posted in the First Aid Room and initialed before the start of the first (1st) shift.
- Respond to beach emergencies and submit all necessary written reports to the immediate superior.
- Submit all injury and other required weekly reports to the Regional Manager on Sunday mornings.
- When necessary, call a missing person search.
- In the event of a drowning at a State Beach, contact the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation. They can be reached at the Division Headquarters (222-2632) or through the Division of Enforcement (222-3070).
- NOTE: At Facilities without a Beach Manager, these duties and responsibilities shall be delegated to the Beach Operations Supervisor.

Emergency Duties of a Captain/Assistant Captain of the Lifeguards include:

- Assume the functions of the Beach Manager when he/she is not present.
- Report all major problems to the Beach Manager.
- Check all safety equipment on a daily basis.
- Supervise all beach emergencies and submit written reports to the Beach Manager, as may be required.
- Assume the duties of a lifeguard station if and only if there is a staff shortage or an emergency.

EMERGENCY SIGNALS

All lifeguards and rangers must learn and use the following emergency signals:

BEACH SIGNALS	
<u>CALL</u>	<u>NEED</u>
1 Whistle	Get attention of swimmer
2 Whistles and points to area	Water supervisor wants staff attention
3 Whistles/both arms up	Body Search
3 Whistles/one arm up	Police Needed
3 Whistles/lifeguard dives	Immediate Rescue
3 Whistles/arms crossed	First Aid Kit and Resuscitator for First Aid

DURING A SEARCH	
<u>CALL</u>	<u>NEED</u>
2 Whistles during a body search and point to area of victim.	Lost person is. found on soil.
1 Long Whistle during search	Person found in water.

****NOTE: ALL PERSONNEL ARE TO ASSIST IN A LOST PERSON SEARCH**

MISSING PERSON PROCEDURE

1. The only persons allowed to call for a missing person search are the Beach Manager and the Captain/Assistant Captain of the lifeguards. Prior to calling a search, the Beach Manager/Captain/Assistant Captain will check the toilets, bathhouses and immediate vicinity of where the person was last reported being seen.
2. Upon the emergency signal (three whistles and the lifting of both arms above the head), all Lifeguards and Rangers and the Beach Manager shall move to the directed area. One Lifeguard (the one farthest away) shall go to get emergency equipment.
3. All Park Rangers and aides shall assemble on the pavilion.
4. The head of the Park Rangers shall send one person to the area to inquire about the name and the identity the lost person and return to the pavilion to inform all Park Rangers and aides of the name and appearance of the lost person. The females check the female facilities and around the women's section of building. The males check the male facilities and around the men's section of the building.
5. One Park Ranger shall be assigned to the anxious party. The Park Ranger must stay with the party until the person is found or until the search is terminated. The Ranger will bring the complainant to the First Aid Room. The Ranger gets the following information: Sex, age, height, address, telephone, missing time, clothing color, defining marks.
6. If the missing person is located in the pavilion area, the ranger will blow two (2) whistles and point to the person's location. The ranger or aide will bring a found child to the parent or guardian.
7. If the missing person is found in the water, the Beach Manager /Captain/Assistant Captain will blow his/her whistle one long time and bring hand to ear. The Ranger will call for a rescue and designate the entrance closest to where the rescue is being performed.
8. To keep crowds back, all remaining Lifeguards and Park Rangers will secure an area around the rescue effort. The crowd control staff should just say, "PLEASE MOVE BACK, THANK YOU."
9. In the event of a drowning at a state Beach, the Beach Manager is responsible for contacting the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation. They can be reached at the Division Headquarters (222-2632) or through the Division of Enforcement (222-3070).

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER PROCEDURE

- Before swimmers are cleared from the water, the Beach Captain/Manager/Assistant Captain must have seen lightning.
- All lifeguards (all breaks terminate), all Park Rangers and the Beach Manager shall clear all swimmers from the water for 20 minutes following the last bolt of lightning.
- Lifeguards shall stay in assigned areas until released by the Captain/Assistant Captain.

PROCEDURE ON RAINY DAYS WITHOUT LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

- No lifeguard is allowed to leave an assigned station.
- If feasible, confine swimming areas.

SEVERE SURF PROCEDURE

When severe surf conditions persist, the Beach Manager shall use his/her discretion to either:

- Reduce the size of the beach by bringing bathers from both ends to the middle and marking such boundaries with appropriate flags.
- or -
- AFTER CONSULTING with the Regional Manager and the Main Office, prohibit bathing and close the beach for the day.

AUTHORIZATION

**GENERAL BEACH REGULATIONS
STATE - PRIVATE - MUNICIPAL BATHING AREAS
Beach Rules and Regulations Promulgated in Accordance with
Chapter 3343 of the Public Laws of 1954**

8. During periods of severe surf, undertow and other emergency conditions the Recreational Safety Inspectors of the Division of Parks and Recreation shall have the authority to close any and all bathing areas whenever such action is deemed necessary in the interest of public safety. Whenever a bathing area has been closed because of aforesaid conditions, lifeguards shall be retained on the beach to caution prospective bathers against entering the water.
9. The bathing season for each year lasts from May 30th until 6:00 pm of each Labor Day unless the Division of Parks and Recreation gives notice to the contrary.