



## REDDITCH LIFESAVING & LIFEGUARD CLUB

### **Beach Safety Operating Procedures** **Model Structure for an Emergency Action Plan**

#### **Suggested contents**

- |                               |                             |                                |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Introduction               | 2. Dangerous Waves          | 3. Changing Weather Conditions |
| 4. Beach Configurations       | 5. Reckless Driving         | 6. Kite Surfers                |
| 7. Water Craft Emergencies    | 8. Natural Pollution        | 9. Litter                      |
| 10. Human Hazards - First Aid | 11. Pollution               | 12. Swimming Hazards           |
| 13. Substance Abuse           | 14. Additional Hazards      | 15. Vandalism                  |
| 16. Tidal Changes             | 17. Lost Children/Abduction | 18. Incident Reporting         |

#### **Sample text**

##### 1. Introduction

The aim of this handbook is to give every member of beach staff a comprehensive insight into what is expect of them in the event of an emergency.

##### 1.1 Definitions

###### Minor Emergency

A minor emergency is an incident which, if dealt with promptly and properly will not result in a life threatening situation and would normally be dealt with by anyone member of the team (in conjunction with any other appropriate agency or individual).

###### Major Emergency

A major emergency is one giving rise to a serious urgency or life-threatening situation. As with minor emergencies the response to most major emergencies follows the same general pattern.

##### 2. Dangerous Waves

###### 2.1 Dumping Waves

In the event of dumping waves, as with any dangerous situation, the Beach Lifeguards are to take down the red and yellow flag and raise the red flag. All members of the public are to be advised to stay out of the water. Once the waves have ceased, the red flag can be taken down and the yellow and red flag hoisted.

###### 2.2 Surging Waves

In the event of surging waves, please ensure the public don't put themselves at risk, particularly children and those on the rocks at Headland. Depending upon the severity of the surging waves, you may have to discontinue swimming in the designated bathing zone.

##### 3. Changing Weather conditions

###### 3.1 Fog

In the event of fog suddenly appearing on the sea and restricting the Beach Patrol vision, take down the red and yellow flag and raise the red flag. Beach Lifeguards are to monitor the bathers coming out of the water. Once the fog has cleared, staff can take the red flag down and hoist the red and yellow flag on the instructions of the Duty Supervisor.



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### 3.2 High Winds

In the event of strong winds, the red and yellow flag is to be taken down and the red flag raised. Once the high winds have ceased the red flag can be taken down and the red and yellow flag raised.

### 3.3 Thunder and Lightning

In the event of thunder and lightning do not let yourself or the public stand near the flagpole. Do not use mobile telephones or personal radios. Move bathers and other visitors away from open spaces such as the seashore when the tide is out.

### 3.4 Offshore Winds

In the event of offshore winds, the Beach Lifeguards are to hoist the orange wind sock / flag with the words Offshore winds - NO INFLATABLES. Inform beach users that it is unsafe to use inflatables when there are offshore winds.

### 3.5 Hot Weather

In the event of hot weather, there may be an increased demand of patrons wanting to bathe. In the event of abnormal bathing loads, the Beach Lifeguards are to increase patrols in the designated bathing area and inform their supervisors. Where bather loading becomes excessive, the Duty Supervisor to consider restricting patrolled area by decreasing the number of patrolled zones - in such situations, the provision of a fast response patrol craft at the limit of the swimming area must be implemented.

During sunny, hot weather lifeguards should offer advice on sun care and protection to beach users - slip (on a T shirt), slap (on a hat), slop (on sun protection).

## 4. Beach Configurations

### 4.1 Steep Shelving

It is possible after a severe storm for the landscape of the beach to change. This normally would not present a danger. However, if your start of day beach assessment indicates that there has been movement of channels or of the sand, inform your supervisor immediately. Incorporate updated safety warnings on the notice boards at all entrance points. You may have to raise the red flag due to the sudden change in bathing depth.

### 4.2 Rocks

In the event of the public being trapped in or between large rocks, contact must be made with the emergency services immediately. Stay with the casualty if safe to do so and make the casualty as comfortable as possible until other lifeguards are able to assist in a rescue or until the emergency services arrive.

## 5 Reckless Driving

In the event of reckless driving either on the beach or in the immediate vicinity, Beach Lifeguards should note the car registration number and ask Control Centre to contact the Police and inform the Beach Supervisor.

## 6 Kite Surfers / Buggies

Kite Surfers should not enter the patrol swimming zones. If they do so they should be approached and the patrol zone area pointed out to them. Instruct them to use the designated areas that are marked on the beach information plans and notice boards.

The structure of an EAP should be to provide simple instructions to lifeguards and other staff who may have to respond to a foreseeable emergency.