

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
Marine Safety Division

City of San Clemente Lifeguard Services were established in 1931

- One drowning in over 40 years at San Clemente City beaches (2009)

Marine Safety Mission Statement:

To maximize the safety and well-being of visitors to San Clemente's beach and marine environment, through comprehensive public education and responsive emergency intervention.

Short version of the above Mission Statement is:

"To Ensure a Safe and Enjoyable Day at the Beach"

Geographical Area:

Two miles of public beach (North Beach – Lausen's Beach) and 1,200-foot fishing pier

Hours of operation:

Lifeguards services are provided 365 days a year from 8:00 am to sunset

Fulltime Staffing:

1-Marine Safety Chief (Currently not filled, item used to fund an additional Marine Safety Officer)

1-Marine Safety Lieutenant – Rod Mellott (Currently serving as Interim Lifeguard Chief)

4-Marine Safety Officers

Seasonal Staffing (Backbone of division):

5 -Ocean Lifeguard Supervisors

 2 – Ocean Lifeguard Supervisors - (3/4 Benefited Regular Part-Time)

 3 – Ocean Lifeguard Seasonal Supervisors

37-Seasonal Ocean Lifeguards

1-Office Specialist II – (3/4 Benefited Regular Part-Time)

Marine Safety 2019 Calendar Year STATS:

- Beach Attendance: 2,221,660
- Swimmers Rescued: 1,543
- Prevents: 26,272
- Medical Aids: 1,076
- Public Education Contacts: 34,968
- Enforcements: 11,194 Contacts
 - 24 citations issued by lifeguard staff

Marine Safety 2020 Calendar Year STATS (as of 7/26/20):

- Beach Attendance: 1,397,535
- Swimmers Rescued: 1,663
- Prevents: 31,557
- Medical Aids: 600
- Public Education Contacts: 36,340
- Enforcements: 19,692 Contacts
 - 12 citations issued by lifeguard staff

Equipment:

1-Lifeguard Headquarters

1-Pier Tower (open every day from 8:15 until 10 minutes prior to sunset)

13-Lifeguard Towers (located between North Beach and Lausens Beach)

 Odd numbered towers South of the Pier (Towers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, & 11)

 Even numbered towers North of the Pier (Towers 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, & 14)

5-Four-wheel drive rescue vehicles (2 Jeeps and 3 ATV's)

1-Rescued-Equipped Personal Watercraft (PWC)

5-AED's (located in all the rescue vehicles)

1-[DJI Inspire Drone](#)

8-Observation Cameras to utilize for lifeguard operations

5-SCUBA Dive Team Members (full-time staff)

Communications:

4 - 800 MHZ Console Base Stations (2 HQ and 2 Pier Tower)

8 – 800 MHZ Motorola Hand-held Radios

PA Systems - located on pier, HQ and Emergency Response Vehicles

Phone Systems – Located at HQ, Pier Tower, and all beach towers have hard lines and communicate via phone (*exception is two of the towers use 800 MHZ hand-held radios*)

Certifications:

- United States Lifesaving Association
- California State Title 22 First Aid – seasonal staff
- CPR – American Heart Association BLS
- Automated External Defibrillator
- Search & Arrest Procedures (PC 832) - Supervisors & Full-time staff
- SCUBA – Full-time staff
- Emergency Medical Technicians – Supervisor & Full-time staff
- Emergency Driving & Personal Watercraft Operations

Lifeguard Training:

- Recurrent training 18 hours annually
- Rookie Training Academy – 100 hours
 - Five consecutive weekends
 - Paid training
 - Training conducted at lifeguard headquarters
 - Top academy recruits promoted to Ocean Lifeguards
- Supervisor Trainings/Meetings held monthly and scheduled bi-weekly during busy season
- Full-time and supervisors staff attend joint agency trainings and City wide training opportunities

Marine Safety Programs:

1 – Lifeguard Operations

- Ocean Rescue
- Medical Care
- Law Enforcement
- Public Relations
- Special Events

2 – Prevention Education

- [Junior Guard Program](#)
 - Program conducted at lifeguard headquarters
 - Limited to 840 students annually (Ages 9 – 17)
 - Six Sessions of JG program are offered (June, July, and August)
 - Sessions are three weeks and run Monday – Friday
 - Participants attend either a AM or PM class:
 - AM session 9 am – 12 pm
 - PM session 1 pm – 4 pm
 - Different levels of JG's
 - Ripper
 - JG I
 - JG II
 - JG III
 - Cadet Program

Ocean Safety Outreach Program

- Beach and Ocean Safety Presentations provided annually:
 - Attend local elementary schools
 - Camp Pendleton
 - Fairs, civic groups, etc.
 - [Supplemented with City website safety information](#)
 - Weather Board

- Surf Report (949.492.1011) & [webpage](#) updated with current weather and surf conditions daily at 8 am, 12 pm, and 5 pm
- [Public Beach Cam](#) (pans 180 degrees located on top of clock tower at HQ)
- Surf Warning Flag System
 - Green – Generally safe conditions
 - Yellow – Use caution
 - Red – Hazardous conditions
- [Neighborhood Beach Watch Program](#)
 - A community partnership to help create safer beaches including free training for the public on how to recognize ocean dangers, swimmers in distress, and what to do about it. Participants will be taught techniques normally only taught to lifeguards with a goal of making our beaches safer and helping to save lives.
- [Shark Information](#)
- [Public Service Announcements](#)
 - Available on social media outlets and YouTube

Foundations/Private Support:

- [San Clemente Lifeguard and Junior Guard Foundation](#)
- Established 2013
- Foundation Mission:
 - Is dedicated to enhancing the safety and well-being of visitors to the beach through education, developing and building community partnerships, obtaining and providing resources to directly support the San Clemente Marine Safety Division’s Lifeguard and Junior Lifeguard programs. The Foundation also supports preservation of the history and memorabilia of San Clemente Lifeguarding.
- Board is comprised of Community Leaders and former San Clemente City Lifeguards who are dedicated to the safety of our beaches and supporting our Lifeguard and Junior Lifeguard programs.
- Past six years the Foundation has approved grants for an average of \$9,000 annually. Below are a few examples of approved grant funding:
 - Junior Lifeguard Program
 - Scholarships
 - Assortment of equipment
 - Competition fees
 - Catalina field trips
 - [Promotional video](#)
 - Lifeguard Equipment
 - DJI Inspire Drone
 - Binoculars/water bottles – new hires (Rookies)
 - FLIR Thermal Imager
 - Beach Cam Monitors – Dispatch Center

- Education
 - City Trolley Educational Posters
 - Light Post Educational Posters
 - Las Palmas Outreach Event Night

Rev. 2020-08-01