



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

S.O.P Number: 700	Effective Date: October 1, 2010
Section:	
Subject: Beach Patrol	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Steven Paine	

Section 700 - Beach Patrol Guidelines

Purpose: To establish Beach patrol guidelines for patrolling the beach and informing residents and visitors about hazardous conditions in the beach.

Scope: These guidelines are applicable to all Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department personnel performing beach patrol and when responding to emergency and non-emergency calls in district and in mutual aid response areas.

The beach patrol service is not a Lifeguards Service, The existence of these written guidelines is not intended to limit any member in the exercise of judgment or initiative in taking the action a reasonable person would take in extraordinary situations that may arise in the fire service. Much by necessity must be left to the training, experience, initiative, integrity, and discretion of the members of the Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department.

Section 701 - Beach Patrol Qualifications

In order for members to perform Beach patrol duties, the member must meet the following criteria:

- Member must be at least 21 years of age
- Be certified and/or licensed at an EMS level of first responder or higher,
- Have a current CPR for healthcare provider card.
- Have completed on-line course NFPA 1500: Driving Safety
- Have completed an the training requirements listed in **Section 810: Beach Patrol Training**
- Have successfully completed the department beach safety training or an equivalent training approved by the Fire Chief
- Must pass fire department swim test

All Members must complete this criterion in order to be considered for Beach Patrol training.

Section 702 - Beach Patrol Vehicle Maintenance



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

- Beach Patrol Vehicles must be inspected for proper operation by the certified shop every 150 hours of operation or as required per manufacturer recommendations.
- Maintenance should be performed as indicated in the Owner's manual or as suggested by the manufacturer.
- In the event that repairs to the unit are necessary, it must be reported to the chief on duty in writing immediately.
- If a Beach Patrol unit is in need of repair it will be put out of service until repairs are completed.
- Administrative office should see that all members receive an email memo advising of when a vehicle is taken out of and put back into service.

Section 703 - Beach Patrol Pole System

The Beach Patrol Pole system is a life saving system put in place by the Fire Chief. The system consist of placement of 22 poles on the beach every 500 Feet; these are numbers 0-21; each Pole has (2) orange USCG approved life saving rings, that can be used to assist a person(s) who might be drowning or having trouble in the water. The purpose of the numbers is to identify address and the possible location where the emergency is taking place. These poles start in the southernmost part of the town (3900 N. Ocean) and Finished in the northernmost part of the town (1400 S. Ocean). Each Pole is strategically placed in the beach area of high rise buildings or structures which address is used as a land mark.

Each member performing Beach Patrol Duties must become familiar with the Beach Pole System Maps; Appendix A and Appendix B (Refer to attachments)

Section 704 - Beach Patrol Duties

Before starting the patrol, the crew will:

- Complete the Beach Patrol Run sheet prior to going on patrol and at the conclusion of patrol
- Take Radio and radio harness "Labeled Beach Patrol 12 (BP12)" or "Beach Patrol 212 (BP212)". Taking Spare Batteries is highly recommended.
- Take corresponding Nextel communication device for your unit
- Inform chief on duty of the beginning of beach patrol duty via Nextel or face-to-face
- Notify Firecom that Beach Patrol 12 or Beach Patrol 212 is available in zone

On the beach, the crew will:



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

- Patrol the designed beach area.
- Inspect all poles in the Beach Pole System to ensure every pole has (2) life saving devices; if a device is missing, it should be reported to the chief on duty and replaced immediately
- Crew must keep their uniform ON at all times while actively patrolling
- Watch for dangerous and emergency situations
- Inform the public of dangerous water/weather conditions
- Advise the public of unsafe behaviors
- Alert immediately EMS and/or Law Enforcement for required emergency response
- Provide first aid and approved BLS protocols
- Assist in finding lost children
- Member encountering rescue situations must notify Firecom and request additional resources including Marine 12 or Marine 212 Deployment before entering the water.
- Beach Patrol Vehicles will be operated in accordance with the manufacturer safety recommendations.
- Before backing up a BEACH PATROL UNITS, the driver will get out and walk around the vehicle to make sure that no one or no belongings are behind. If two personnel are in the BEACH PATROL UNITS, one will get out and direct the driver during the whole maneuver.
- A slow safe walking speed will be used under normal patrol condition (5-10mph)
- When exiting the vehicle the driver should ensure that the emergency brake is engaged, and the unit transmission is placed in neutral.
- Beach Patrols units are monitored by GPS Systems that track the speed of the unit. If the speed limit passes 20 MPH the fire chief will receive an e-mail stating speed violation. The maximum speed allowed during patrol is 10-20 MPH.
- Stationary Patrol is accepted in high volume areas of the beach such as around the pier north to approx. 4660 North Ocean and south to approx. 4100 North Ocean. Members doing stationary patrol will remember to be attentive to patrons in the water, as well as patrons on the sand in distress.

- At no time should personnel on a BEACH PATROL UNITS unit ride along the shore line with direct contact of the water. If this occurs, there's a probability of the unit becoming entrapped in the sand and can create safety concerns. If these procedures are not followed, disciplinary action can and will be taken at the discretion of the officer in charge of ocean rescue and/or the Fire Chief of the department.

At the end of the patrol, the crew will:

- Rinse the BEACH PATROL UNITSs (inside and outside, under bed and undercarriage) using Salt Away ® must be used to wash the BEACH PATROL UNITS
- Wash and wax the BEACH PATROL UNITSs according to the weekly schedule
- Replace any consumable used during the patrol
- Fill the BEACH PATROL UNITS gas tank



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

- Fill out the Beach Patrol Run sheet
- Ensure that Beach Patrol Run sheet is properly completed; Failure to complete documentation may constitute in disciplinary action.

Section 705 Beach Patrol Emergency Response

- During emergency situation, a controlled accelerated speed can be used as long as it does not endanger beach patrons.
- Members responding to any call in the beach must inform Firecom of their response.
- Member encountering rescue situations must notify Firecom and request additional resources including Marine 12 or Marine 212 Deployment before entering the water.
- Members responding back to the station for medical calls must respond code 1, unless based on the nature of the incident the officer deems it necessary for a code 3 response but must ensure the safety of themselves, the equipment and citizens at large.
- Members responding back to the station for Fire Calls may respond code 3 but must ensure the safety of themselves, the equipment and citizens at large.
- Members performing beach patrol duties are not allowed to respond to any calls west of El mar drive, but are expected to respond to medical calls along El Mar Drive.

Section 706 Beach Patrol Response Guidelines

Purpose: To establish Beach Apparatus Response guidelines (Run Order) for all types of emergency and non-emergency calls in district and in mutual aid response areas.

Scope: These guidelines are applicable to all Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department personnel responsible for apparatus decision-making when responding to emergency and non-emergency calls in district and in mutual aid response areas.

The existence of these written guidelines is not intended to limit any member in the exercise of judgment or initiative in taking the action a reasonable person would take in extraordinary situations that may arise in the fire service. Much by necessity must be left to the training, experience, initiative, integrity, and discretion of the members of the Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department.

Policy:

Personnel responding to the scene on any Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department apparatus will first report to the Officer or Acting Officer in the front seat of the apparatus, confirming that the officer is aware of which firefighters will be responding with that particular beach apparatus. The first arriving officer shall establish command and follow the Broward Incident Command Procedures. (**Section 901: Broward County Incident command Procedures**)

The commanding officer in the scene should determine what unit should provide transport to the medical units, from the street to the patient. If a second ATV is not available, the incident



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

commander shall contact DLE for their assistance to transport medical units from the street to the patient.

All responding units are to position Beach Apparatus on the beach via one of the approved entry points i.e. (“minto”, south side of pier alleyway, and grassy lot on north side of zone 1870 s. ocean)

Beach Apparatus are to wait on orders from the Chief on duty or initial responding apparatus size up on whether to launch the Marine unit for rescue/recovery or whether to continue response on the beach in the Beach Apparatus. Response will be based on the location of the incident, nature of incident, number of possible victims and water conditions (high tide/low tide, Rough Water, Ocean Current strength and direction of flow)

Drivers and officers must monitor radio traffic and communications while responding to all incidents. These communications are an integral part of their size-up process and will provide vital information about the conditions at the scene and which apparatus to follow-up with as situations/conditions change. The Officer or Acting Officer must be aware of transmissions related to problems that may be encountered at the scene, such as number of victims, location of victims, beach access, rescue equipment needed, additional resources, etc. (Section III-14, Radio Guidelines).

Follow all guidelines in standard operating guidelines outlined in Section II-8 and II-9.

When the apparatus arrives in the area of the incident, it will slow its response, as to attempt to locate the victim(s), the best route to take to reach the scene, other beach rescue apparatus, civilians, type of incident, etc. and should not hinder incoming units.

Drivers of all beach apparatus are to position the responding Beach Rescue equipment directly in in-front of the incident location or to the leeward side of the ocean current, keeping all warning lights turned on and using audible warning devices only to indicate location to other responding units, or to clear the scene of bystanders and civilians.

There will be No Marine PRC (Personal Water Rescue Craft) Operations 30 minutes prior to dawn and dusk.

Primary Response: Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department apparatus are to respond to the following types of alarms in the predetermined order **within our fire management zone:**

Beach/Ocean Rescue Drowning: Beach Patrol 12 & Marine 12, Beach Patrol 212, Utility 12, E-12 (**NO BUNKER GEAR TO BE WORN ON BEACH**)

Residential Drowning (High Rise): Beach Patrol 12, Beach Patrol 212, E-12, Utility 12

Residential Drowning (Single Family): E-12