

Dewey Beach Patrol



Open Water Rescue
Emergency Medical Service
Beach Event Management

2019 Seasonal Report

Prepared by:

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Introduction

The Dewey Beach Patrol (DBP) command structure includes: Department Head Captain Todd A. Fritchman (*Appendix G*), Sr. Lieutenant Michael Thompson, Sr. Lt. Nathan Jones, Lt. Zach Stevenson, and Lt. Chris Colman. The DBP provided an average of twenty-six (26) certified lifeguards and one EMT on a daily basis. Typically, fifteen (15) lifeguard stands were utilized to cover 22 blocks (approximately 1.1 miles) of coastline. The patrol provided bay rescue and Emergency Medical Services to the entire town during weekends from May 4, 2019 through May 25, 2019 and September 15, 2019 to September 30, 2019. Full time coverage on a daily basis from May 26, 2019 through September 9, 2019 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Requirements for the Beach Patrol:

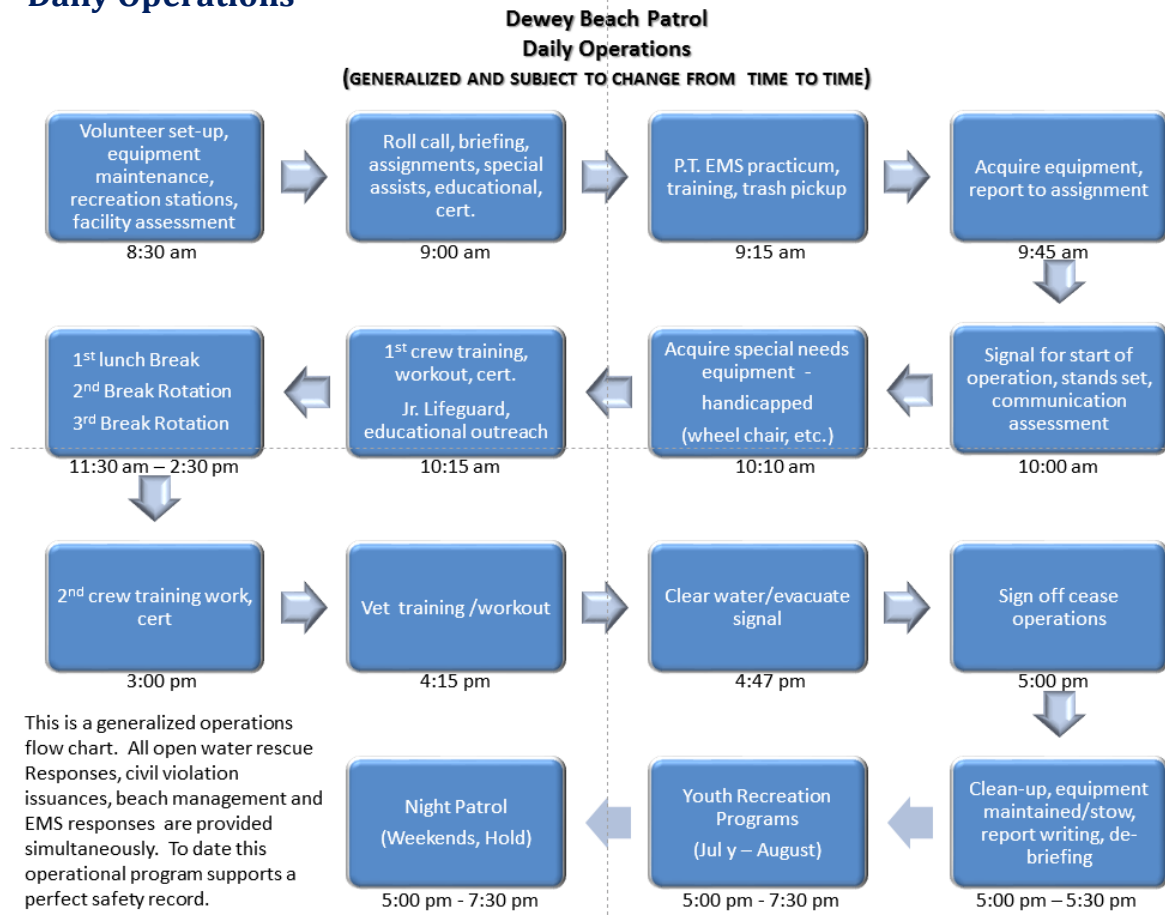
1. Must be at least 16 years of age.
2. Must submit a physical examination report certified by a physician.
3. Must be in excellent physical condition. Rookie workouts and veteran workouts are mandatory and strenuous. Beach, surf, and emergency responses scenes (conditions can be dangerous at times).
4. Submit a completed application prior to March 15.
5. Complete a pre-employment physical test. Required before Captain's interview. The test consists of the following:
 - a. 1 mile run (on the beach)
 - b. 1-220 yard dash sprint
 - c. Rescue Simulations and aptitude testing
 - d. Pull-ups (Standard grip)
 - e. Push-ups (Until failure)
 - f. 500 meters swim in ten (10) minutes or less
 - g. 25 yard sprint swim (rescue simulation)
6. Must acquire First Responder Certification. An accredited first responder's course certification is required for every beach patrol member. This certification may be acquired in-house on an annual basis in partnership with the Delaware State Policy and the Delaware Fire School.
7. Complete a written beach patrol/U.S.L.A. exam – 80% minimum required for a passing grade.
8. Complete interview with Captain.
9. Provide a copy of your driver's license and social security card.
10. Complete a drug screening.
11. Comply with all policies listed in "Dewey Beach Patrol Policy Handbook/Work Agreement and Open Water Rescue Curriculum.

Requirements for the Beach Patrol:

In order to maintain high standards and exemplary performance, all members of the patrol must undergo physical and mental wellness tryouts, rigorous physical training and educational coursework. The DBP is nationally accredited by the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) to certify its members in open water rescue. Each guard is certified as: (1) an Emergency Medical Responder by the Delaware State Fire School, (2) as a Health Care Provider by the American Heart Association; and (3) an Open Water Rescue Lifeguard through the USLA (*Appendix A*). First year lifeguards are required to complete a minimum of twenty-one (21) days of rookie training that includes intense Open Water Rescue, Emergency Medical Responder training and the completion of the annual rookie test. In addition, the DBP is a standing member of the Sussex County Lifesaving Association (SCLA). All lifeguards must continuously complete routine training in CPR, standard first aid, c-spine injury stabilization, and beach/surf management.

The Dewey Beach Patrol operational duties began at 9:00 am for roll call, briefing and training. The lifeguards sign on at 10 am sharp, clear the water at 4:57 pm and sign off at 5:00 pm unless an active response is in progress. Station breakdown, transport and equipment return from 5:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Daily Operations



Due to public request, standards within the industry, and community stewardship, the DBP also provides a host of related services including, but not limited to:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Handicapped access services
- Beach Event Management
- Beach Ordinance Enforcement
- Night Patrol on assigned weekends and holidays
- Marine Reptile stranding reports and disposal
- Junior Lifeguarding Program (see www.deweybeachpatrol.com)
- Youth and Adult Recreation Program (see www.deweybeachpatrol.com)
- Marine safety instruction and educational outreach to various groups
- Trash and Debris Removal
- Fecal Matter Clean-up
- Tri-State Bird Rescue Procedures Incident Command System (CIS) Training and Reporting
- DBP Competition Team
- Bay Rescue



The Junior Lifeguarding Program, Youth Recreation Program and educational outreach programs are funded in part by non-profit and private donations.

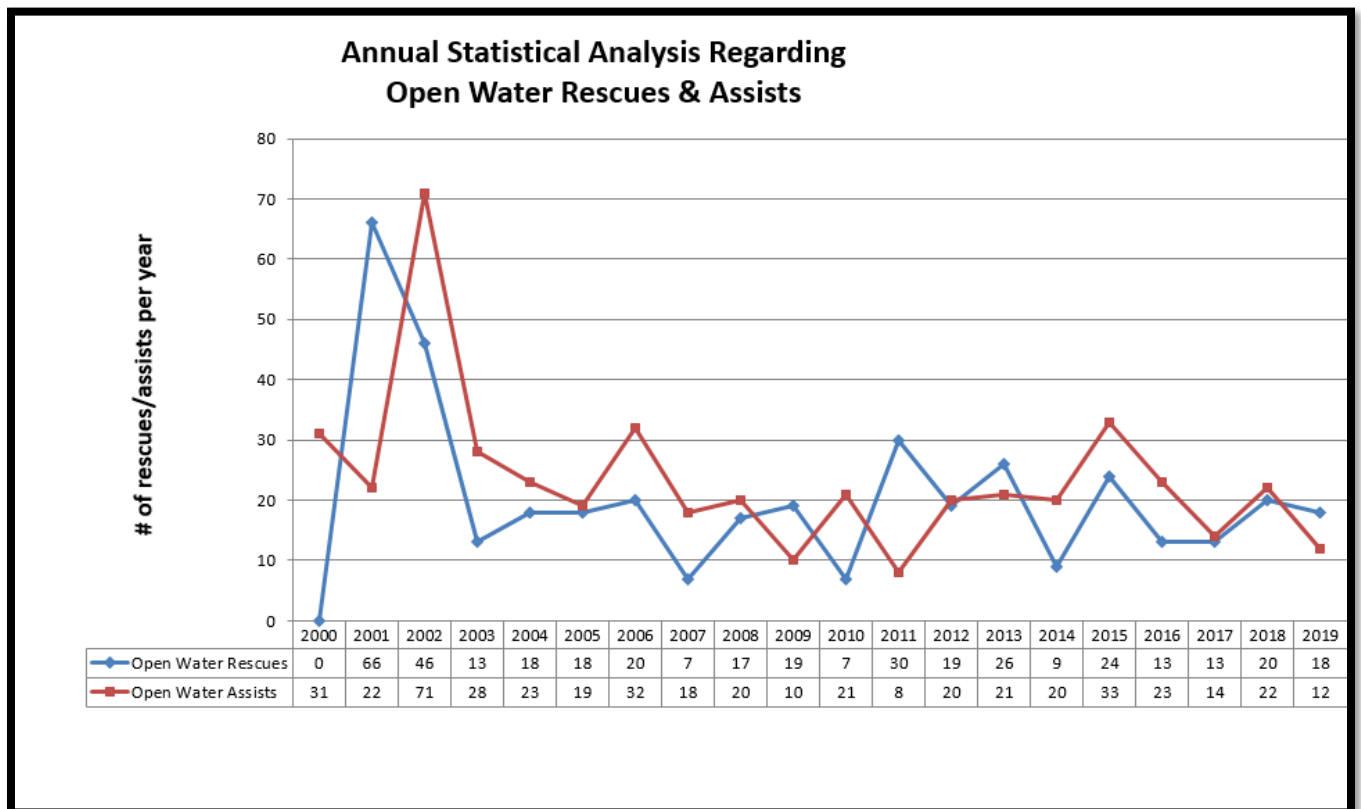
During the past summer seasons, the DBP has experienced some variations in rescue response services provided. This has been attributed to observable increase of visitors using the beach facility alterations of the coastline topography, coastal erosion and significant weather events. The hazards experienced by swimmers include profound long shore currents, profound “shore break” and rip currents. Weather patterns and the residual effect of beach replenishment have also been concerns in the past. It has become very apparent that the Town of Dewey Beach has more families on a daily basis than in the past. This is clearly apparent by the increased number of infant, youth, adolescent users and full family units.

Statistics

Open Water Rescue

Most rescues occur as a result of inexperience with the high energy impact of our surf zone (“shore break”), associated rip currents and long shore currents. A rescue is defined as any case in which a lifeguard physically extricates a victim from the water when the victim lacks apparent ability to do so alone. An assist constitutes a pro-active and preventative removal from the surf zone for physical, preventative or educational purposes. The following graphs indicate the annual statistical analysis of open water rescues, open water assists, missing persons, beach evacuations, and major and minor emergency response cases from 1999 to 2019.

Table 1: Open Water Rescues and Assists

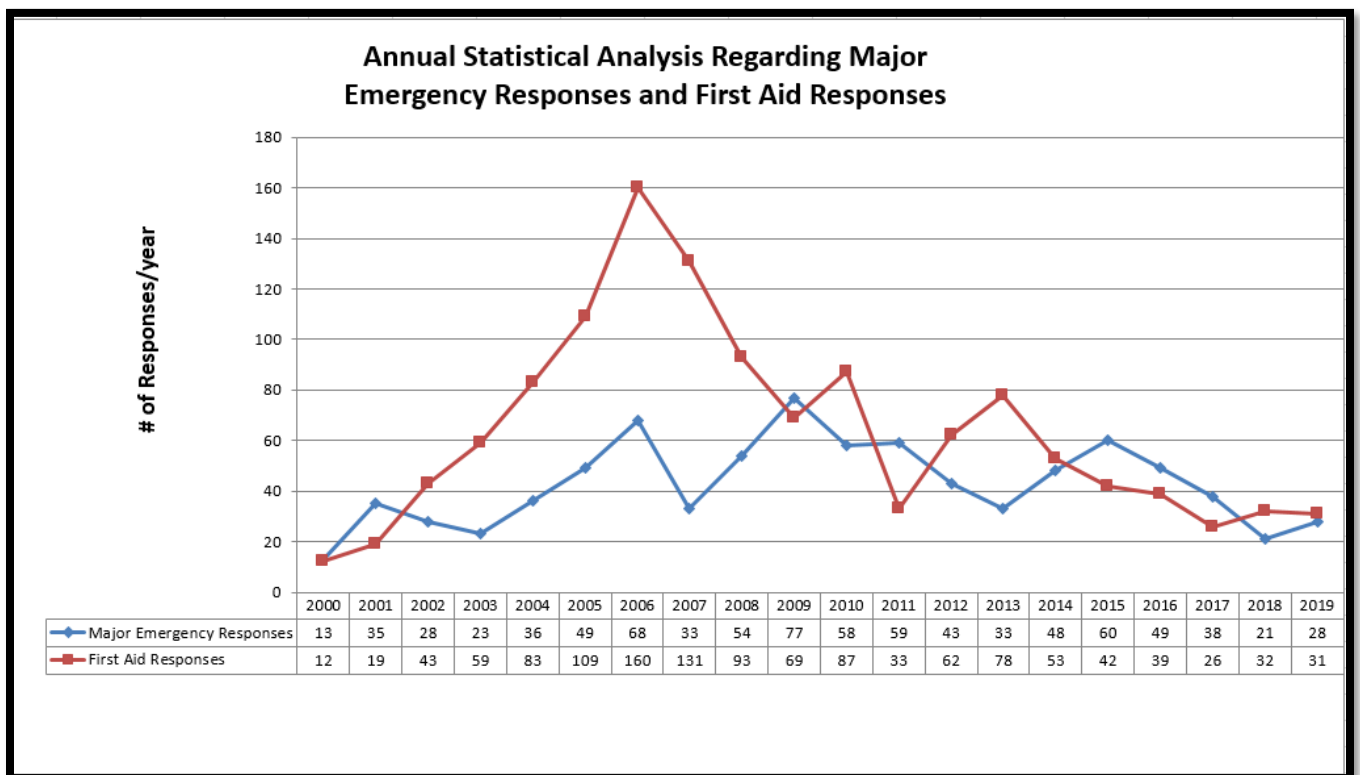


Emergency Medical Services

Major emergency response cases typically require transport or Advanced Life Support. These emergencies may include, but are not limited to, the following: broken bones, seizures, dislocations, cervical spine injury, impact trauma, lacerations, heat stroke, severe bleeding, cardiac arrest, blood sugar, bicycle accidents, falls on stairs, water in the lungs, drug and/or alcohol overdose, torn ligaments, hypersensitivity reactions, umbrella injuries, auto accidents, dog bites and unconsciousness, fire call responses and fire alarm response. There were multiple cervical spine injury responses: several positive but no loss of life or exacerbated injury.

First aid responses typically require basic life support. These cases include, but are not limited to: abrasions, intoxication, dog bites, splinters, allergic reactions, fatigue, burns, insect bites, jelly fish stings, soft tissue damage, eye injury, fish hook puncture, heat exhaustion and sting reactions.

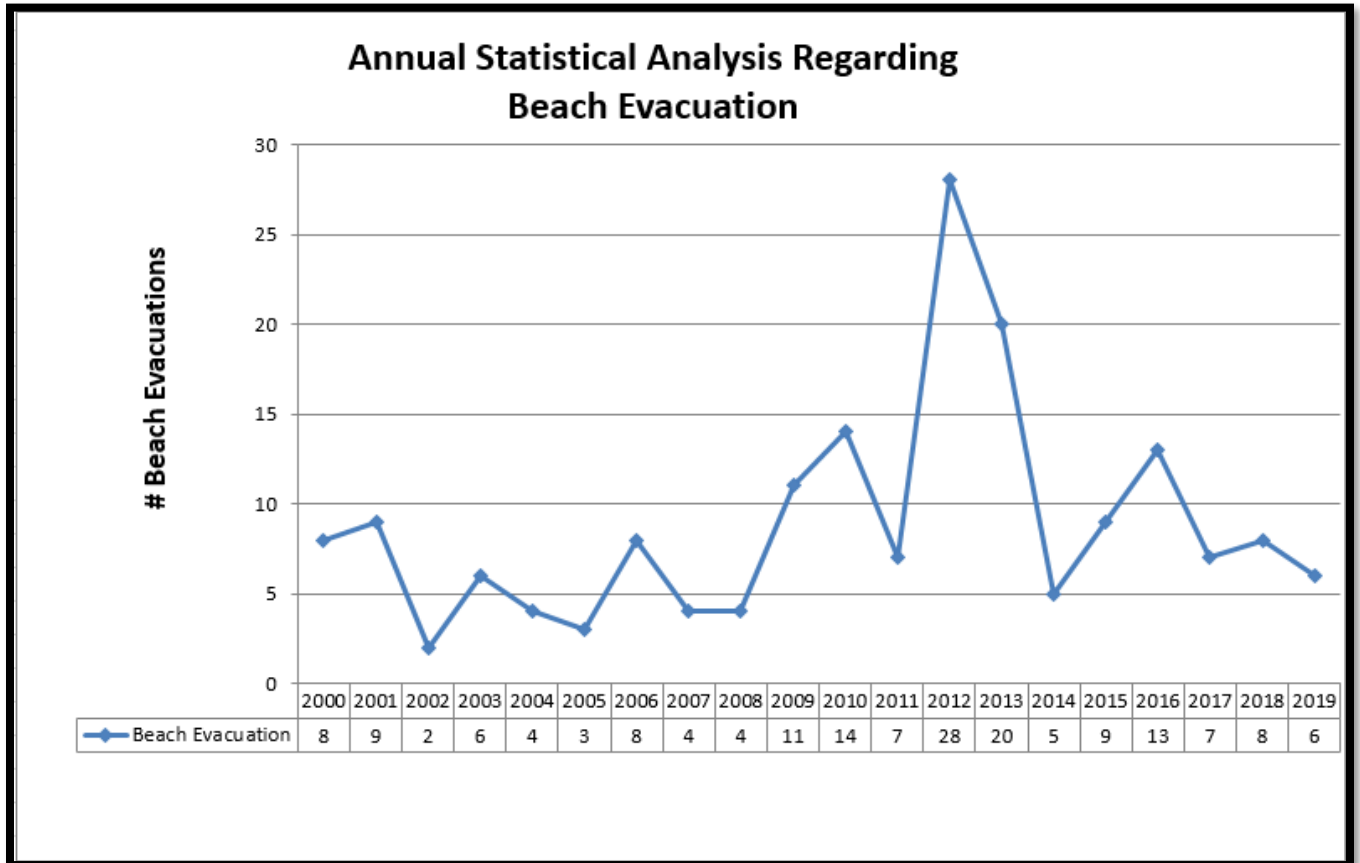
Table 2: Emergency Medical Services



Missing Persons

A lost person recovery plan is activated immediately upon request from the parent(s), guardian(s), and/or responsible party or when a lost person is discovered. This process is applied to youth and adults. We possess a return rate that averages approximately ten (10) minutes and many lost persons are from other jurisdictions including Rehoboth Beach and the State Parks.

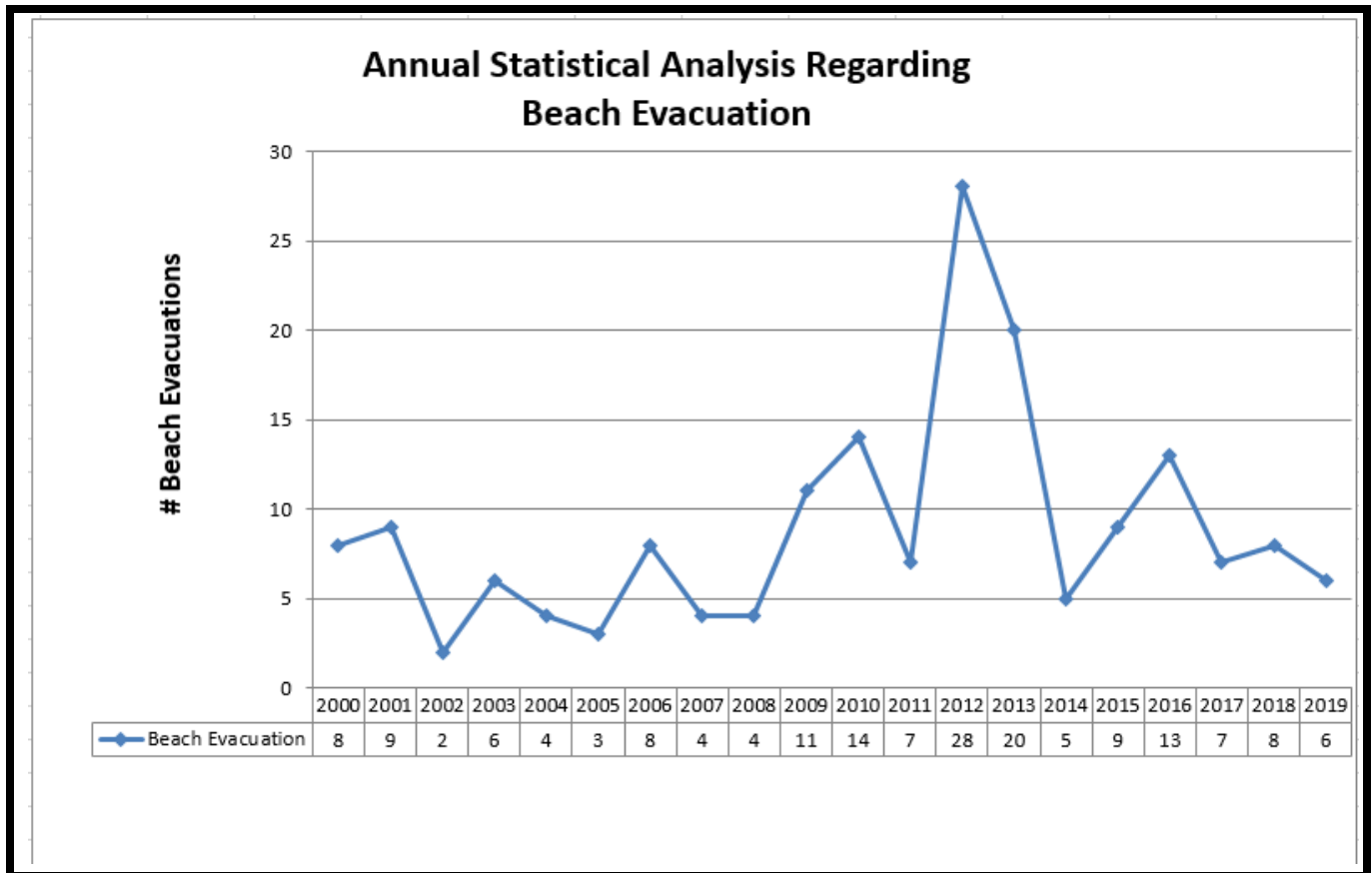
Table 3: Missing Persons



Beach Evacuations/Regulated Water Use

Prior to or during significant weather events or marine hazards, the DBP may evacuate the facility. This typically includes, but is not limited to: lightning storms, water spouts/tornados, hurricanes, marine life activity, northeast windstorms and special events.

Table 4: Beach Evacuations



Night Patrol

The Town of Dewey Beach requested veteran members of the DBP to monitor the beach facility during designated evening hours. The operating period may be subject to change from time to time. Typical hours of operation were from 5:00 pm to 1:00 am (or as needed) running Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The purpose of this evening monitoring program is to maintain safety on the beach facility, enforce town ordinances, monitor beach fire permits, check for fishing licenses, trash pick-up and provide eyewitness testimony regarding ordinance violations to the Dewey Beach Police Department (DBPD). Night Patrol (NP) staff members are required to conduct all normal DBP duties and strictly adhere to professional code of conduct as demonstrated in the Dewey Beach Patrol Handbook/Work Agreement. (*Appendix C*)

NP Staff Members must meet the following criterion in order to qualify:

1. United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) certified. Staff members must
 - a. Complete at least 23 hours of physical training in a USLA certified training agency with an approved curriculum- (DBP)
 - b. Complete written examination (with a score of 85% or better)
2. At least two (2) years of open water rescue experience- (DBP)
3. First Responder Certified

4. At least two (2) hours pre-response training with the DBPD
5. Establish witness testimony protocol (training by DBPD)
6. Demonstrate comprehension of the use and care of the ATV and rescue response equipment including, but not limited to:
 - a. CPR mask
 - b. Buoys
 - c. Uniform
 - d. First Aid Supply
 - e. Emergency Medical Equipment
 - f. Lights
 - g. Handheld Communication Devices – 800 MHz and/or Motorola handheld.
 - h. Any other devices deemed necessary by the DBPD
7. Demonstrate a complete understanding of DBPD protocols. Including the use of the handheld radio sets.
8. Provide debriefing documentation to all agencies involved. This information must clearly document any/all trouble shooting and/or situations requiring intervention.
9. NP Staff Members are responsible for documenting all training hours, work hours, and applied rescue experience time. They are required to understand and uphold all town ordinances and have them readily available at all times.

Civil Code Violations

In order to control alcohol consumption, breaches of peace, and littering on the beach facility, highly tenured members of the Dewey Beach Patrol have undergone training from the Town Alderman(s), Dewey Beach Police Dept. and from the Beach Patrol Captain in regard to the issuance of Civil Code Violations relevant to consumption of alcohol, littering, unlicensed dogs, glass on beach, and breaches of peace.

Civil and Criminal Voluntary Assessment

CHAPTER 65. BEACHES

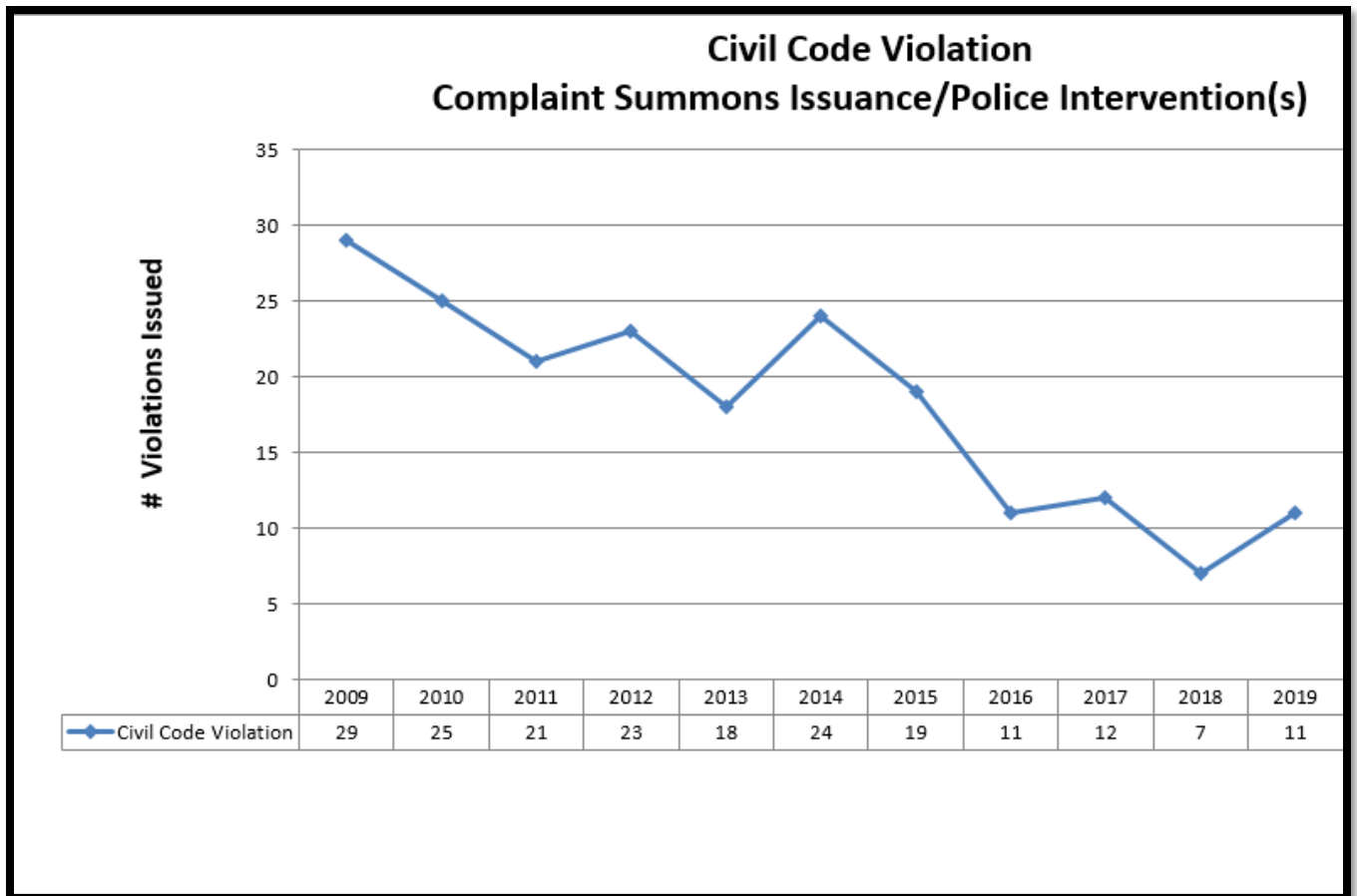
OFFENSES

§65-2. Beach curfew	Civil
§65-3. Animals on beach	Civil
§65-4. Surf fishing	Civil
§65-5. Items prohibited on beach	Civil
§65-6. Beach fires	Civil
§65-7. Use of boats on or around beach	Civil
§65-8. Vehicles on beach	Civil

CHAPTER 80. CIVIL OFFENSE

§80-6. Alcoholic beverage in public	Civil
§80-7. Commercial activity on streets and beach	Civil
§80-8. Littering	Civil
D. Animal defecation	Civil
§80-9. Sleeping in vehicles	Civil
§80-10. Failure to acquire a dog license	Civil
§80-11. Animal Noise	Civil

Table 5: Civil Code Violation



Other Statistical Information

Boat Rescues = 1

Fire Response = 3

Beach Event Management

The DBP monitored and assessed the facility from approximately 8:30 am every day of the official summer season. Deficiencies are responded to or reported to the appropriate agency or department. The DBP also assists in crowd control, ordinance enforcement and medical services for events including, but not limited to: “Running of the Bull,” skim-board camps and contests, weddings, bonfires and recreational facilities setup, monitoring and breakdown. Police intervention calls were 22 for this season.

Lifeguard of the Day

In order to provide adequate communications assist with clerical, respond to inquiries, receive and advise visitors, and provide general maintenance to the Lifesaving Station (LSS), a “Guard of the Day” is posted at the LSS daily until staffing shortages dictate otherwise.

Tetherball Stations

The patrol operates and maintains (16 ±) tether ball stations throughout the season. The demand from both youth and adults is high. Therefore, we plan to continue the program and include more stations. A description of the location of each of the tetherball stations can be found on the operations map. (Appendix D)

Handicapped Beach Access Chair Usage

Beach Access chairs are available upon request to anyone needing additional assistance accessing the beach facility, primarily handicapped. The chairs are sturdy, light-weight, sand-terrain, and specialized to allow easier access in the sand. A driver's license, local address and phone number are required for reservation and specific rules apply. This year alone, there were a total of **270 ±** provisions/ transports. The chairs are funded primarily through private donations by the Dewey Beach Lions Club and Mr. Chris Shell.

Competition

In order to meet standards in the lifeguard industry, promote the Town of Dewey beach in a positive fashion, promote stewardship, and provide motivation for staff, the DBP provides a competition team on an annual basis. The team competes in local, regional, national and international USLA sponsored competitions.

Although competitions are not a primary objective, the team has succeeded beyond expectations. The DBP has represented the town well by receiving many honors, including, but not limited to:

- ✓ 2002 Sussex County Lifeguarding Association (SCLA) Team Ocean Series Runner-Up
- ✓ 2003 SCLA Team Ocean Series Champions
- ✓ 2003 Gateway United Team Runner-Up
- ✓ 2004 USLA National Lifeguard Championship, Division A - 3rd Place
- ✓ 2006 Mid-Atlantic Regional Team Champions
- ✓ 2007 National Champions (Beach Flags, Open Water Rescue)
- ✓ 2008 3rd Place Team USLA National Lifeguard Championship
- ✓ Individual and individual Team National Champions and Runners -Up.
- ✓ 2009 USLA National Lifeguard Championship, Division A – 4th Place
- ✓ Individual and Team National Champion Runner-Up
- ✓ 2010 USLA National Championship, Division. A-Second Place; in conjunction with the SCLA.
- ✓ (5) National Champions
- ✓ SCLA First Place Point Scorer
- ✓ 2012 USLA National Championship, Division A-Third Place; in conjunction with the SCLA.
- ✓ 2013 USLA National Championship, 11 person team competed in Manhattan Beach, CA conjunction with the SCLA.
- ✓ 2014 USLA National Championship, Division A – Female Sprint Team, National Champions Runner-Up Female Beach Flags National Championship Runner-Up. Men's Sprint Team – 4th Place.
- ✓ 2015 USLA Regional Lifeguard Championship, Men's Sprint Team – 1st Place. Women's Sprint Team – 1st Place. Women Beach Flag. 1st Place NSLA Nationals Completion Team Participation
- ✓ 2016 USLA Regional Lifeguard Championship, Men's Sprint Team – 1st Place. Women's Sprint Team – 2nd Place. Women's Beach Flags – 1st place. USLA National Championship, Hermosa Beach, CA, Men's Sprint Team – 4th place. Women's Beach Flags National Champion Runner-up – 2nd place.
- ✓ 2017 Dewey Beach Patrol Competition Team Achievement - USLA Mid-Atlantic Regionals, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware- July 12, 2017
 - Eddy Shoop- Second Place, Women's 2K Beach Run
 - Eddy Shoop- Second Place, Women's Beach Flags
 - Josie Nixon- First Place, Women's Beach Flags
 - Josie Nixon, Eddy Shoop, Katie Giles, Casey Nixon- First Place, Women's 4x100 Sprint Relay
 - Nate Jones, Sam McMillon, Brandon Bishop, Mitch Sgro- Second Place, Men's 4x100 Sprint Relay
 - Mike Czerwinski, Grant Otto- Fourth Place, Men's Paddle Pickup Relay
 - Casey Nixon, Ellie Jogani- Sixth Place, Women's Paddle Pickup Relay

- Allison Thomas- Fifth Place, Women's Run-Swim-Run
 - Ellie Jogani- Tenth Place, Women's Run-Swim-Run
 - Ellie Jogani- Third Place, Women's Surf Swim
 - Allison Thomas- Seventh Place, Women's Surf Swim
- USLA National Competition, Daytona Beach, Florida- August 10-12, 2017

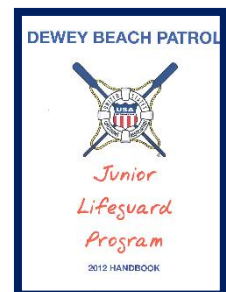
- Allison Thomas- Thirteenth Place, Women's Run-Swim-Run
 - Eddy Shoop- Fifth Place, Women's 2K Beach Run
 - Casey Nixon- Eighth Place, Women's 2K Beach Run
 - Eddy Shoop- Fifth Place, Women's Beach Flags
 - Katie Giles- Tenth Place, Women's Beach Flags
 - Josie Nixon, Eddy Shoop, Katie Giles, Casey Nixon- First Place, Women's 4x100 Sprint Relay
 - Nate Jones, Sam McMillon, Brandon Bishop, Dustin Venables- First Place, Men's 4x100 Spring Relay
 - Brandon Bishop- Fourth Place, Men's Beach Flags
- ✓ 2018 Dewey Beach Patrol Completion Team Achievement
 - USLA Ocean Series Completion 2018
 - USLA Mid Atlantic Regional Lifesaving Completion 2018
 - USLA Nationals 2018 – Virginia Beach
 - ✓ 2019 Dewey Beach Patrol Completion Team Achievement
 - USLA Ocean Series Completion 2019
 - USLA Mid Atlantic Regional Lifesaving Completion 2019
 - USLA Nationals 2019 – Virginia Beach
 - Men's Sprint Team National Championship 2019

Community

One of the most unique things about the Dewey Beach Patrol is the way in which the lifeguards give back to the community. In 1998, the DBP began a Junior Lifeguarding program to help educate children in the areas of water safety and open water rescue. Also, in 1998, the DBP began a youth recreation program, providing a safe and fun evening alternative for children and young adults in the community. The community has shown their perception and need for lifeguards in numerous cases. (*Appendix E*)

Junior Lifeguarding Program

The Junior Lifeguarding Program is designed to target ages 6 to 16. The program includes regular sessions began Tuesday, July 2nd and held on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:15 to 11:30 am through August. Individuals interested in participating should report to the Dewey beach Lifesaving Station (located on Dagsworthy Street and the beach). There is no charge for the program; however, donations are greatly appreciated.



The mission of the USLA and the Dewey Beach Patrol is as follows: "To establish high standards for open water (beach) lifeguards, to educate the public, and to promote actions intended to result in saving of human life in and around the marine environment."

Participants must provide the following:

- A basic physical exam, certified by a physician
- Demonstrate intermediate swimming ability
- A high degree of self-discipline during instruction
- Must be able to meet an intermediate level of physical fitness

- Must complete and return a liability waiver
- Must complete and return a registration form

The Program provides quality instruction for each participant by the Captain of the Dewey Beach Patrol whose qualifications include:

- Delaware Certified Secondary Level Education Teacher of Biology
- BS. Biology, MS. Science Education
- USLA Certified Open Water Rescue Instructor
- Emergency Medical Responder Certified.
- 39 years of open water rescue experience in training and management
- Incident Command Certified
- Environmental Professional

Secondary Instruction provided by veteran members of the patrol and Emergency Medical Service Officers. Each participant typically receives official patrol shorts and logo T-Shirt and official membership in the USLA upon completion of the program.

The program will provide direct instruction and applied experience in, but not limited to the following areas: lifesaving history, lifeguard qualification and training, communication methods, health, fitness and safety, the surf beach, the marine environment, weather and other hazards, rescue equipment, public relations, drowning, preventative lifeguarding, water surveillance, aquatic search and rescue, records and reports, and components of a rescue.

Youth Recreation Program

The Dewey Beach Youth Recreation Program provides a facility, on the beach, that will meet the recreational needs of individuals ranging in age from early adolescents to teenage. The program is implemented, maintained, and managed by members of the Dewey Beach Patrol under the direction of the Patrol Captain.

The program is offered on an evening basis beginning at 5:15 pm and ending at sunset (weather permitting). The facility was located on Dagsworthy Street and the Beach. The starting date was July 2nd and the program continued through Labor Day.

The staff provided the following for the participants:

- Set-up and Break Down of all Equipment
- Supervision of recreational area
- Basic Skill Instruction (if needed or requested)
- Officiating of any team activity

The equipment and activities offered may include, but are not limited to: (for early adolescence) T-Ball, whiffle ball, rubber horseshoes, beanbag toss, ring toss, tether ball, STX Lacrosse (complete with goals and sticks, no contact), rubber footballs, soccer (complete with goals), basketball, and volleyball.

Educational Outreach Event (Sunset Park)

The Dewey Beach Patrol, in conjunction with Envirotech Environmental Consulting, Inc., The Division of Fish and Wildlife, The Center of The Inland Bays, The Town of Dewey Beach and others host an Environmental Awareness and Educational Outreach Program annually. The program is held at Sunset Park in Dewey Beach. The program is inquiry based, hands on and provides educational outreach to individuals ranging from early adolescence to adults. The guards address environmental, ecological, and biological concepts found in and around the marine environment. (*Appendix F*)

Contributions

As a supplement to the Town provided funding, the DBP offers great thanks to those who have contributed to our cause. All contributors great and small are significant. Private donations support many of the daily services that the DBP provides. These services include, but are not limited to: beach access chairs, youth recreation program, junior lifeguarding program, Open Water Rescue, competition team expenses and emergency medical service vehicles. The gracious contributions are critical to our efficient professional service. The leadership of Dewey Beach extend our greatest appreciation to all of our contributors to the Dewey Beach Patrol.

Recommendations for Future Operations

1. All events, permitted or sanctioned by the Town of Dewey Beach, that take place on the beach, including, but not limited to skim board events, group outings, weddings, bonfires, etc. are communicated to the DBP at least 2 weeks before the event.
2. Dogs and cats are leashed when using the facility. Dog fees accumulations on the facility have increased exponentially in conjunction with usage. People and dog fight interventions are on the rise and frequent.
3. Funding to replace Lifeguard Stand signage (6) at approximately \$900.00/unit.
4. Wages consistent with surrounding municipalities and townships as we have fallen behind significantly (.25 across the board wage increase).
5. Rain and head gear.
6. Hyatt Bay Beach Rescue Lifeguard and complete staffing unit and equipment.
7. Increased staffing units from 52 to 54.
8. New and improved handicapped access chairs.
9. Operational start and finish dates.
10. Replacement of aged and deficient Polaris 500 emergency response vehicle and accessories.
11. Mass marketing and educational outreach to Motels, Hotels, and businesses that alcohol use and possession on the beach facility is prohibited.