

# Dewey Beach Patrol



Open Water Rescue  
Emergency Medical Service  
Beach Event Management

2021 Seasonal Report

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## Introduction

The Dewey Beach Patrol (DBP) command structure includes Department Head Captain Todd A. Fritchman (*Appendix G*), and Lieutenants Zach Stevenson, Michael Thompson, Liam Zolper, Hank Coveloski and Ed Keiser. The DBP provided an average of twenty-six (26) certified lifeguards and one EMT daily. Weekend Services were applied to the Vandyke St. Baybeach according to peak usage periods. Typically, fifteen (15) lifeguard stands were utilized to cover 22 blocks (1.1 miles) of coastline and one (1) stand was utilized on the Bay Beach. The patrol provided Covid- 19 Pandemic response and enforcement, beach event management, Open Water Rescue, Bay Rescue and Emergency Medical Services to the entire town during weekends from May 1, 2021, through May 24, 2021. Full time daily coverage begins May 28, 2021, through September 4, 2021, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Weekend Night Patrol services were conducted from May 28, 2021, through September 4, 2021.

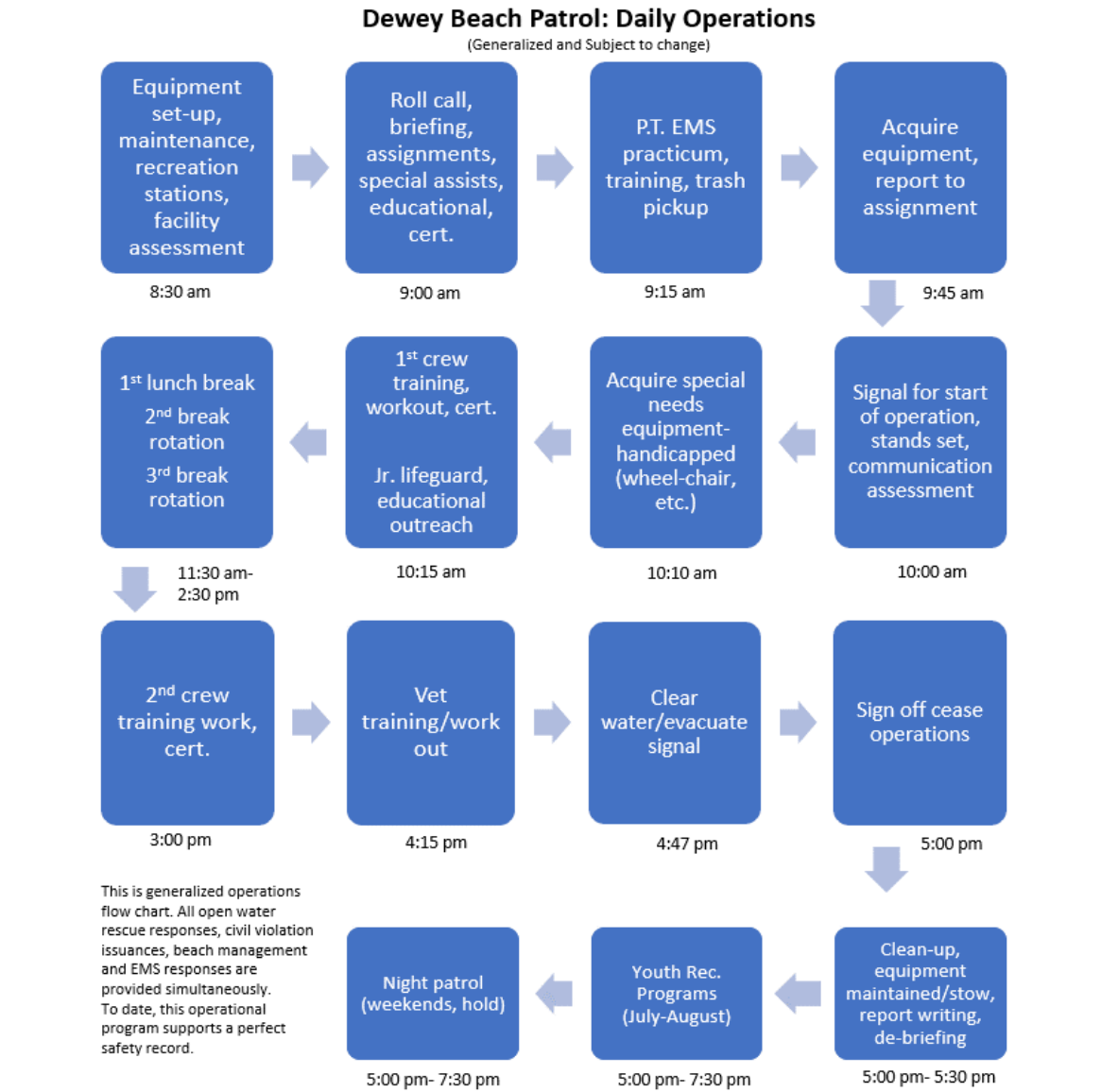
## Requirements for the Beach Patrol

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.

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 will hold certifications 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 Certified Program in house with the Dewey Beach Patrol (*Appendix A*). First year lifeguards must complete a minimum of twenty-one (21) days of training that includes intense Open Water Rescue, Emergency Medical Responder training and the completion of the annual training 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 typical 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. This typical schedule excludes opening day orientation and training for the entire staff from 7am – 9:45am.

## 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/Educational Outreach

- Night Patrol on assigned weekends and holidays
- Marine Reptile stranding reports and disposal
- Junior Lifeguarding Program (see [www.deweybeachpatrol.com](http://www.deweybeachpatrol.com))
- Youth and Adult Recreation Program (see [www.deweybeachpatrol.com](http://www.deweybeachpatrol.com))
- Marine, bird, fish and reptile 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.

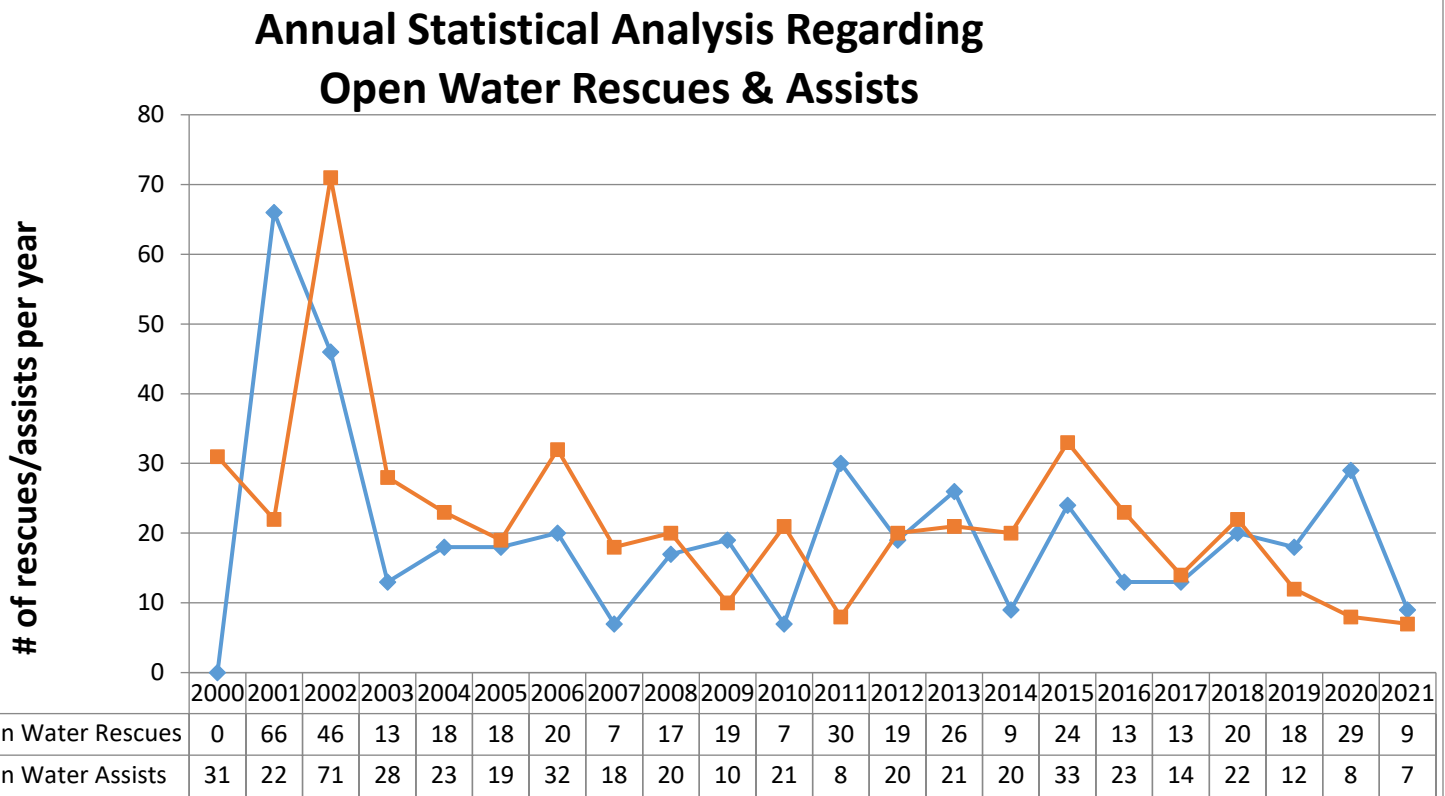
During the past summer seasons, the DBP has experienced some variations in rescue response services provided. This has been attributed to observable increase of visitors using the beach facility alterations of the coastline topography, coastal erosion, and significant weather events. The hazards experienced by swimmers include profound long-shore currents, profound “shore break” and rip currents. This spring and summer season provided a large volume usage from April to mid-September. The DBP designed and implemented a Covid-19 response plan as per Governor’s requirements for “Beaches” and the Town of Dewey Beach Ordinance relative to Covid. 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 daily than in the past. This is clearly apparent by the increased number of infants, youth, adolescent users, and full family users.

## Statistics

### Open Water Rescue

Most rescues occur because of inexperience with the high energy impact of our surf zone (“shore break”), associated rip currents and longshore 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 2021.

**Table 1: Open Water Rescues and Assists**



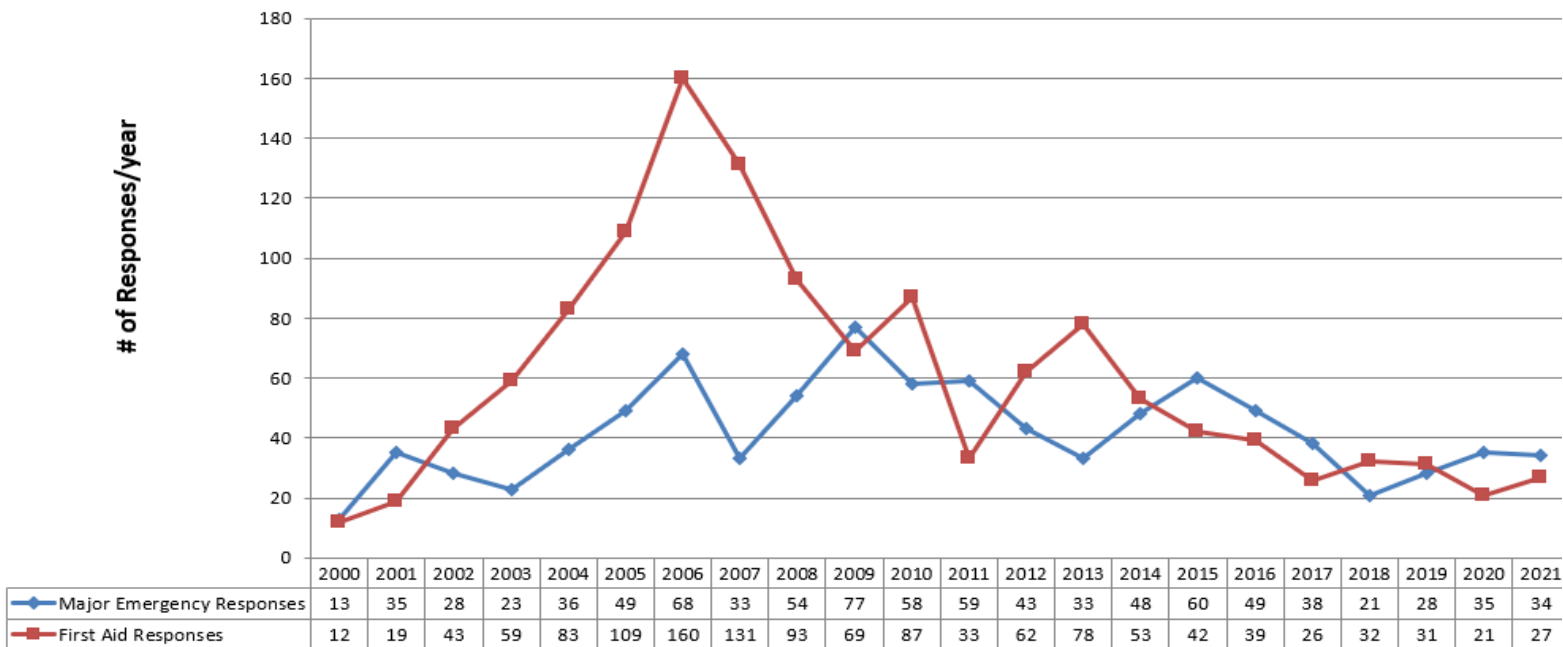
## Emergency Medical Services

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, fishhook puncture, heat exhaustion and sting reactions.

**Table 2: Emergency Medical Services**

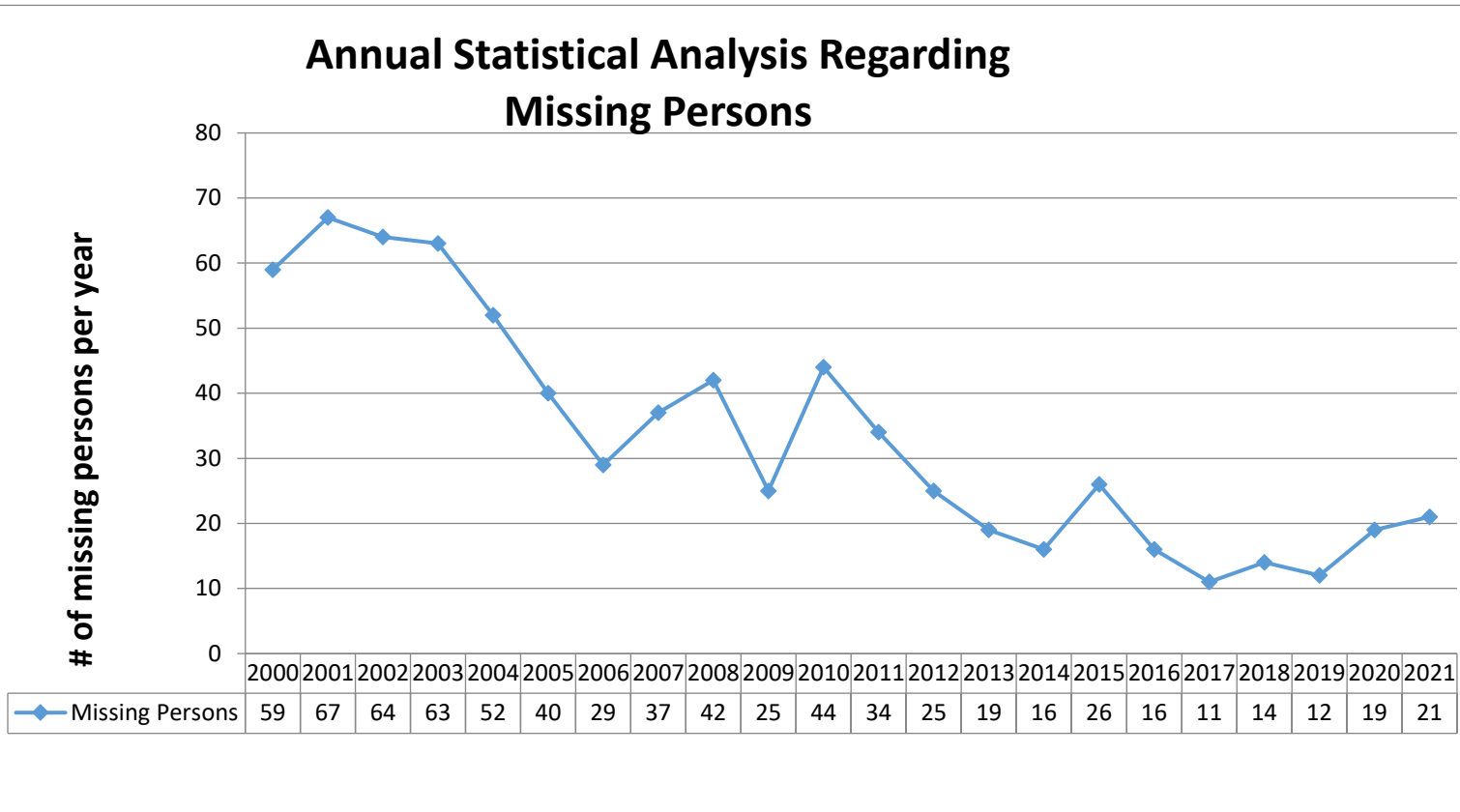
### Annual Statistical Analysis Regarding Major Emergency Responses and First Aid Responses



## 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 ten (10) minutes, and many lost persons are from other jurisdictions including Rehoboth Beach and the State Parks.

**Table 3: Missing Persons**



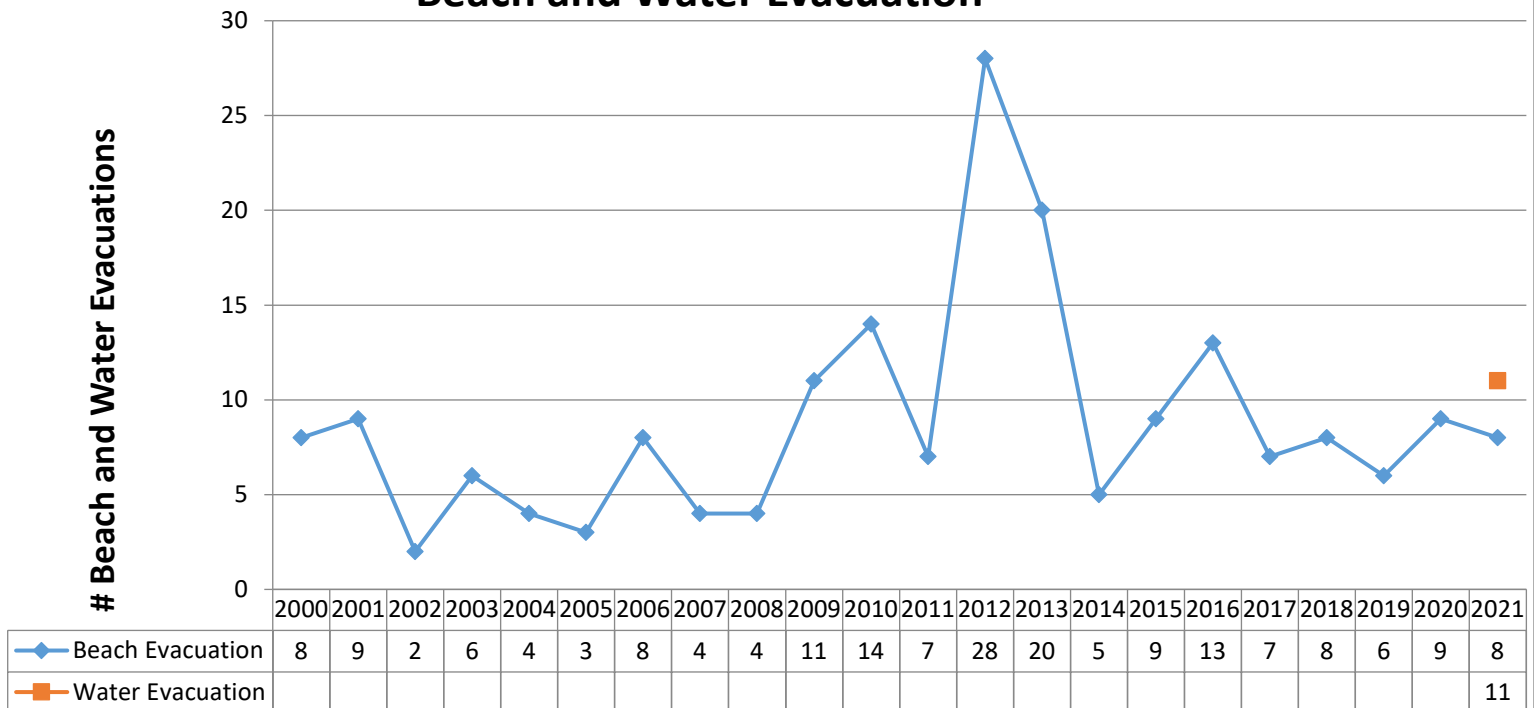


## Beach Evacuations/Regulated Water Use

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, waterspouts/tornados, hurricanes, marine life activity, northeast windstorms, and special events.

Table 4: Beach Evacuations

### Annual Statistical Analysis Regarding Beach and Water Evacuation



### 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 12:00 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). This season, the Night Patrol Program was reduced to the July 4th weekend only. Night Patrol (NP) staff members will 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

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 Beach Patrol Captain of Dewey Beach regarding the issuance of Civil Code Violations relevant to consumption of alcohol, littering, unlicensed dogs, glass on beach, and breaches of peace. Educational outreach was provided to all staff. Ordinance slips were given to all alcohol violators or potential violators. Civil summonses were issued by the Dewey Beach Patrol as well.

### Civil and Criminal Voluntary Assessment

#### CHAPTER 65. BEACHES

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

#### OFFENSES

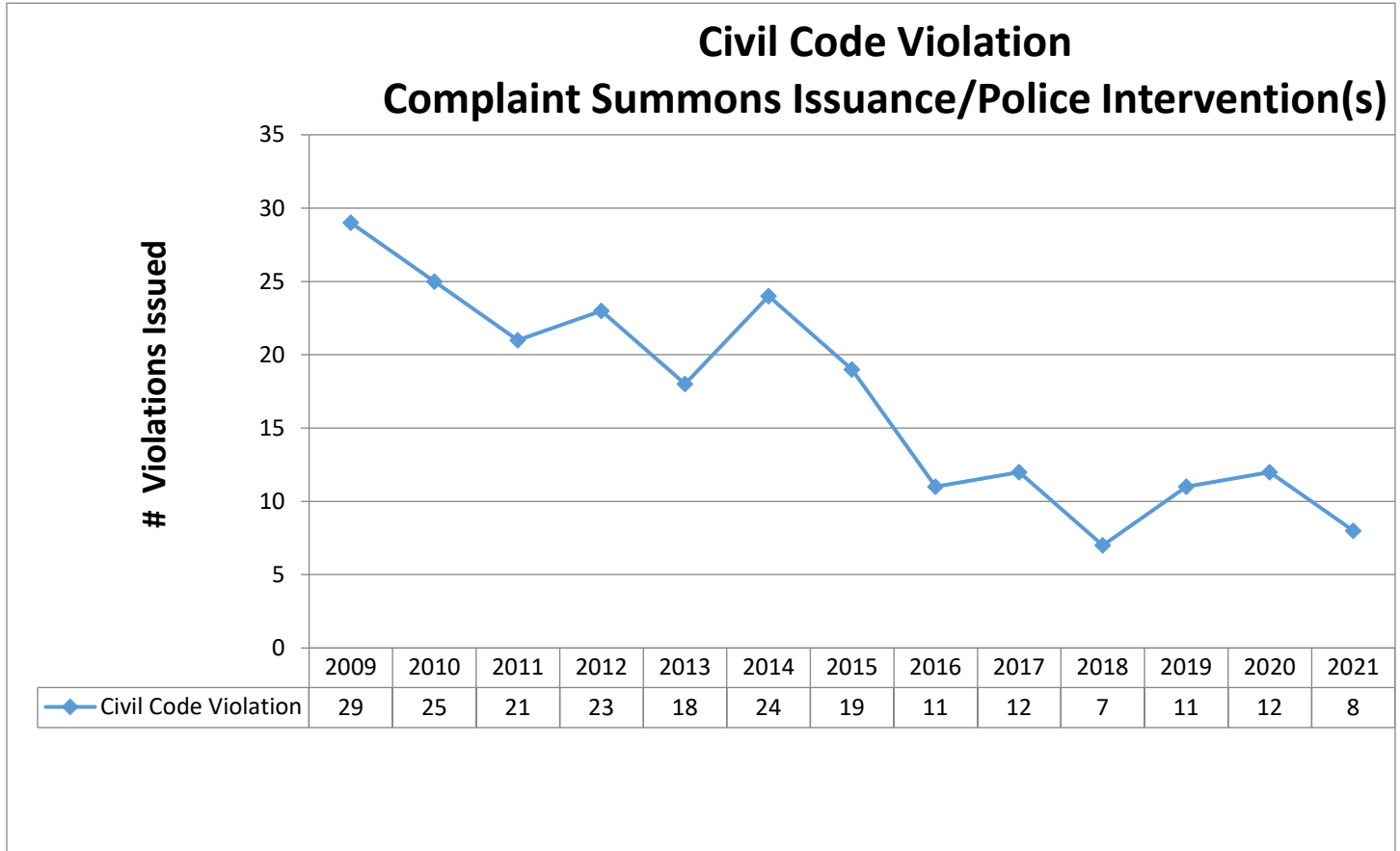
Civil
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Civil

#### CHAPTER 80. CIVIL OFFENSE

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

Civil
Civil
Civil
Civil
Civil
Civil
Civil

**Table 5: Civil Code Violation**



**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, permitted event(s) monitoring and breakdown. There was a total of nine (9) police intervention calls.

**Lifeguard of the Day**

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 daily at the LSS 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 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, lightweight, 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 **314** provisions/ transports. The chairs are funded primarily through private donations by the Town of Dewey Beach.

## Competition

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 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- ✓ 2006 Mid-Atlantic Regional Team Champions
- ✓ 2007 National Champions (Beach Flags, Open Water Rescue)
- ✓ 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team USLA National Lifeguard Championship
- ✓ Individual and individual Team National Champions and Runners -Up.
- ✓ 2009 USLA National Lifeguard Championship, Division A – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 – 4<sup>th</sup> Place.
- ✓ 2015 USLA Regional Lifeguard Championship, Men's Sprint Team – 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Women's Sprint Team – 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Women Beach Flag. 1<sup>st</sup> Place NSLA Nationals Completion Team Participation
- ✓ 2016 USLA Regional Lifeguard Championship, Men's Sprint Team – 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Women's Sprint Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. Women's Beach Flags – 1<sup>st</sup> place. USLA National Championship, Hermosa Beach, CA, Men's Sprint Team – 4<sup>th</sup> place. Women's Beach Flags National Champion Runner-up – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

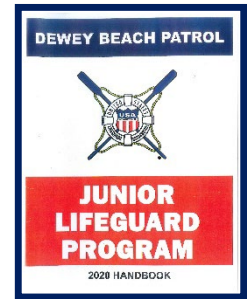
- Eddy Shoop- Second Place, Women’s Beach Flags
- Josie Nixon- First Place, Women’s Beach Flags
- Josie Nixon, Eddy Shoop, Katie Giles, Casey Nixon- First Place, Women’s 4x100 Sprint Relay
- Nate Jones, Sam McMillon, Brandon Bishop, Mitch Sigro- Second Place, Men’s 4x100 Sprint Relay
- Mike Czerwinski, 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.
  
- ✓ 2021 Dewey Beach Patrol Completion Team Achievement
  - DBP Ocean Series Completion 2021- 1<sup>st</sup> Place
  - Middlesex Women’s Competition 2021- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
  - Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition 2021
  - USLA Nationals 2021- Virginia Beach- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
  - Bethany Beach Ocean Series Competition 2021
  - Rehoboth Beach Lifeguard Olympics 2021

## 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 several cases. (*Appendix E*)

## Junior Lifeguarding Program

The Junior Lifeguarding Program was created for youth, ages 6 to 16. The program includes regular sessions beginning Tuesday, July 6th and held on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:15 to 11:30 am through the second week of 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 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, Advanced Lead Instructor
- USLA Certified Open Water Rescue Instructor
- Emergency Medical Responder Certified.
- 41 years of open water rescue experience in training and management
- Incident Command Certified
- Emergency Medical Responder - National Certification

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, which 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **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 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 our contributors to the Dewey Beach Patrol.

## **Recommendations for Future Operations**

1. All events permitted or sanctioned by the Town of Dewey Beach, which 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. A copy of the event permit is requested. A method for ensuring that compliance of non-sanctioned business operations is recommended.
2. Dogs and cats are leashed when using the facility. Dog feces accumulations on the facility have increased exponentially in conjunction with usage. Multiple traumatic injuries have occurred due to dog bites on Dewey Beach and also urination on people.
3. Funding to replace lost or stolen Lifeguard Stands (2) at approximately \$900.00/unit. Two spares are also suggested.
4. Funding to replace Lifeguard Stand Interpretive signage (6) at approximately 360\$/unit.
5. Wages consistent with surrounding municipalities and townships as we have fallen behind significantly (.25 across the board wage increase).

6. Hyatt Bay Beach Rescue Lifeguard and complete staffing unit and equipment.
7. Operational start and finish dates.
8. Mass marketing and educational outreach to motels, hotels, and businesses that alcohol use and possession on the beach facility is prohibited.
9. Vehicles on the beach should be between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., including trailers, ATVs, and other heavy equipment.



## Appendix A

## Appendix B

## Appendix C

## Appendix D

## Appendix E

## Appendix F