



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, March 26, 2024

# Spring Break Safety at City of San Diego Beaches and Mission Bay

## SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SAN DIEGO FIRE-RESCUE LIFEGUARDS WILL EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

SAN DIEGO – On Thursday, March 28, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) Lifeguard Division and the San Diego Police Department will share important information regarding beach and bay safety during spring break.

Spring break in many cities begins on March 30 and SDFD lifeguards typically see an increase in visitors and activity at Mission Bay, one of the nation's top destinations for aquatic enthusiasts. When the weather is warm, there is also a noted increase in beach visitors this time of year. Lifeguards and police will share safety recommendations in the hopes that beachgoers will enjoy their time at the beaches and bay in a responsible way.

**“Lifeguards and police officers patrolling the beaches and Mission Bay want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable experience,” said Lifeguard Chief James Gartland. “Boaters and passengers should learn safety regulations before operating a vessel and be aware of individuals illegally renting vessels.”**

With more than 40 miles of oceanfront and bay shoreline to patrol throughout the city, SDFD lifeguards help keep an average of 17 million visitors safe and conduct an estimated 7,000 rescues at local beaches each year. Additionally, lifeguards manage cliff, scuba and swift water rescues, enforce boating safety regulations and respond to emergencies involving seafaring vessels and other watercraft.

The San Diego Police Department has a full-time beach team whose members patrol the sand, boardwalks and Mission Bay.

**WHAT:** Media availability

**WHO:** Chief James Gartland, San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Division  
Lieutenant Rick Strobel, San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Division  
Captain Benjerwin Manansala, San Diego Police Department, Northern Division  
Lieutenant Matt Botkin, San Diego Police Department, Northern Division

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 28, 2024, 9 to 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Ski Beach Boat Launch  
1600 Vacation Road  
San Diego, CA 92109

**VISUALS:** News photographers will have the opportunity to interview officials and videotape SDPD vehicles and SDFD lifeguard vehicles. The SDFD Lifeguard Division vessel, Triton, will be available for short rides around the bay.

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