



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 22, 2024

City of San Diego Lifeguards and Police Encourage Beach Safety During Busy Holiday Weekend

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

SAN DIEGO – On Thursday, May 25, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) Lifeguard Division and San Diego Police will share important information regarding beach and bay safety during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. SDFD lifeguards typically see an increase in visitors and activity at Mission Bay, one of the nation’s top destinations for aquatic enthusiasts. 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.”

In addition, the Clean Beach Coalition – sponsored by Think Blue San Diego and the City’s Parks and Recreation Department – will be adding 200 extra trash and recycling bins during major holiday weekends this summer to keep beach areas free of trash and debris.

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 Lonnie Stephens, San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Division
Lieutenant Ric Stell, San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Division
Captain Erwin Manansala, San Diego Police Department, Northern Division
Lieutenant Bryan Brecht, San Diego Police Department, Northern Division

WHEN: Friday, May 24, 2024, 9 to 11 a.m.

WHERE: Mission Beach Park
South of Belmont Park on the grass
3000 Ocean Front Walk
San Diego, CA 92109

VISUALS: News photographers will have the opportunity to interview officials and record SDPD vehicles and SDFD lifeguard vehicles.

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