

Nags Head Ocean Rescue

established 1975



2023 Statistics at a glance

- Lifeguard Staff 52
- Water Rescues 326
- Watercraft assisted 2
- Lost Person Search 13
- Medical Calls 93
- Educational Contacts 425, 253
- Estimated Beach Pop. 1,086,169
- Days Beach closed 31

Current Peak Level Operations

- 15 Fixed lifeguard stands
- 6 Roving lifeguards
- 4 Supervisors
- 1 Captain
 - Total = 26 per day



Season Phase up and Phase down

- April 1 to Memorial Day Wkend -> 2 staff/day
 - May 6-12 Supervisor training
 - May 12-24 lifeguard training
- Memorial Day Wkend -> 26 staff/day
- Post Memorial Day to June 20 -> 21 staff/day
- June 21 to August 15 (peak) -> 26 staff/day
- August 16 to Labor Day -> 15-19 staff
- Post Labor day to Sept 30 -> 10 staff/day
- Oct 1 to Oct 15 -> 4 staff/day
- Oct 16 to 31 -> 2 staff/day

Seeking approval for new flag system



Beach Warning Flags

Banderas de Advertencia en la playa



Water Closed to Public

Entry into the Atlantic Ocean is unlawful.



High Hazard

High Surf and/or Currents

All swimmers are discouraged from entering the water.



Medium Hazard

Moderate Surf and/or Currents

Weak swimmers are discouraged from entering the water.



For up to date
information follow
the link in the QR code

Absence of Flags Does Not Assure Safe Waters

Goals of Updated flag system

- National and International standard
- Better education, consistent messaging
- Mirror messaging from NOAA Surf/Rip-current forecasting and DCEM, “love the beach respect the ocean” campaign
- Reduce total number of days that ocean is closed

No Swimming Ordinance

- **Sec. 8-2. Swimming; prohibited during dangerous conditions.**
- (a) It is recognized that during certain periods of time, as a result of a combination of environmental conditions, dangerous riptides and undercurrents occur in the ocean surf making ocean conditions unsafe for swimmers. The town manager is authorized, when he shall make a determination that conditions are unsafe for swimmers in the Atlantic Ocean, to prohibit all swimming in the Atlantic Ocean until such time as he shall determine that the unsafe conditions have abated. During such periods in which swimming is prohibited and after notice is given to the public by announcement on the local radio station and by the posting of signs on the public accesses to the Atlantic Ocean, swimming in the Atlantic Ocean shall be unlawful. The town manager shall make the determination of whether or not ocean conditions are safe based upon his observation of the effects of winds, tides, storm conditions and other environmental conditions affecting the surf in the Atlantic Ocean. He shall also take into consideration weather reports of existing storms in the Atlantic Ocean and the proximity of those storms to the beaches of the town, and the effect thereof.

Suggested Changes/additions

(a) It is recognized that during certain periods of time, as a result of a combination of environmental conditions, dangerous riptides and undercurrents occur in the ocean surf making ocean conditions unsafe for swimmers. The town manager or their designee is authorized, ~~when he to~~ make a determination that conditions are unsafe for swimmers in the Atlantic Ocean, to prohibit all swimming in the Atlantic Ocean until such time ~~as he shall determine~~ that the unsafe conditions have abated. During such periods in which swimming is prohibited and after reasonable notice is given to the public, ~~by announcement on the local radio station, and by~~ to include the posting of signs on lifeguard stands and "Double Red Flags" at the public accesses to the Atlantic Ocean, swimming in the Atlantic Ocean shall be unlawful. The town manager or their designee shall make the determination of whether or not ocean conditions are safe based upon ~~his observation~~s of the effects of winds, tides, storm conditions and other environmental conditions affecting the surf in the Atlantic Ocean. ~~He~~ The town manager shall also take into consideration weather reports of existing storms in the Atlantic Ocean and the proximity of those storms to the beaches of the town, and the effect thereof.

Challenges going forward

- Recruiting and retaining enough quality staff
 - Competitive pay
 - Safe affordable housing



Pay Rate Increase Proposals

2024 Season: \$18.50

2025 Season: \$19.00

2024 & 2025 Season: \$19.00

- FY 23 – 24 Increase:
\$7,928

- FY 24 – 25 Increase:
\$25,394

- FY 23 – 24 Increase:
\$15,856

- FY 24 – 25 Increase:
\$34,933