



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 24, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) Lifeguard Division and San Diego Police will share important information regarding beach and bay safety during spring break. Spring break in many cities begins on March 26 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 Lonnie Stephens, San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Division
Captain Scott Wahl, San Diego Police Department, Northern Division
Lieutenant Rick Aguilar, San Diego Police Department, Northern Division

WHEN: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lifeguard Headquarters
2581 Quivira Court
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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