

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Fourth of July Safety at City of San Diego Beaches and Mission Bay

BEACH SAFETY AND ILLEGAL VESSEL RENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SD FIRE-RESCUE LIFEGUARDS AND SDPD

SAN DIEGO – On Thursday morning, July 1, 2021, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's Lifeguard Division (SDFD) and members of the San Diego Police Department's Northern Division (SDPD) will share valuable information regarding beach and boating safety.

July Fourth weekend brings thousands of visitors to San Diego's popular beaches and larger crowds mean more rescues by SDFD lifeguards. In addition, Mission Bay is one of the top destinations for aquatic enthusiasts, especially during holiday weekends.

"Lifeguards and police officers patrolling our beaches, particularly Mission Bay, want everyone to have safe and enjoyable experiences," said Lifeguard Chief James Gartland. "With the increase in visitors on this holiday weekend, we want to make sure those who participate in aquatic activities know the safest places to swim or surf as well as the safety requirements for equipment such as personal watercraft. We have also seen an increase in illegal vessel rentals and want to warn the public."

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. SDPD 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 Department Lifeguard Division
Capt. Maureen Hodges, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Lifeguard Division
Lt. Lonnie Stephens, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Lifeguard Division
Lt. Ric Stell, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Lifeguard Division
Capt. Scott Wahl, San Diego Police Department Northern Division
Lt. Rick Aguilar, San Diego Police Department Northern Division

WHEN: Thursday, July 1, 2021, 7:30 – 11 a.m.

WHERE: Mission Beach
3100 Ocean Front Walk (on the grass south of the rollercoaster)
San Diego, CA 92109

VISUALS: SDFD lifeguard and police vehicles on display.
Capt. Maureen Hodges (SDFD) will be available for early interviews at 7:30 a.m.
Lifeguards and SDPD will be available for interviews from 9 to 11 a.m.
No podium or news conference; individual interviews will be provided.

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