

Hurricane Bertha keeps Cape May lifeguards busy over the weekend

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Cape May Beach Patrol had a busy weekend due to rough surf conditions caused by Hurricane Bertha, which as of Monday was 190 north-north-east of Bermuda.

According to Captain Buzz Mogck of the CMBP, Cape May would feel the effects of storms far to the south of the area. This point was illustrated over the weekend by the number of rescues, assists, first aid requests and even 911 calls.

On Sunday, one Philadelphia man drowned and a second was missing after attempting to swim to a buoy about 100 yards off the beach in Wildwood. In Atlantic City, a Monmouth man died while swimming, but authorities said he did not drown, but apparently died of natural causes.

Mogck said over the weekend in Cape May there were four "C-spine" injuries, including one individual who was flown to the Atlantic City Medical Center. Mogck said cervical-spine injuries can occur in several ways, but

two common ways are from hitting the surf break or being hit in the back by a strong wave.

Sometimes an individual will hit the surf break after riding a wave to the beach, possibly on a boogie board. After hitting the surf break, the sand slope where the water meets the beach, the rider is often tossed headfirst into shallow water, and can result in a head or neck injury.

Additionally, Mogck said, swimmers leaving the surf area can sometimes be struck in the back by a large wave causing the head to snap back and resulting in a neck injury.

In each of the four cases the victim was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

Mogck said on Saturday, July 12, the lifeguards had one rescue involving five victims with five guards participating. There were also two assists involving two guards. Mogck said an assist, also called a "sneak" locally, is an incident one guard can handle. In a rescue situation, all the swimmers are called out of the water, and any or all of the guards may be called to participate in the operation.

On Saturday the lifeguards also had 12 calls for first aid and one 911 call.

On Sunday there were two rescue events involving two victims and nine guards. There were 11 assists for 12 victims involving 15 guards. There were 16 first aid calls and three 911 calls.

"It was an extremely busy weekend," beach patrol Lt. Bob Cwik said. "(The lifeguards) really earned their money."

Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr. said it was also a busy weekend for the fire department, which operates the rescue squad/ambulance service in Cape May.

"We had 19 total calls on Sunday, which is high for us," Inderwies said.

The Cape May ambulance responded to all the 911 calls from the beach patrol.

Inderwies said his department expects to have a busy summer if the summer storm season continues as it has thus far, saying the storms result in rough surf with the potential for more injuries. And he said despite the popular belief, there are a lot of people in town and many of them are going in the water.

Mogck said people need to be careful when leaving the

surf.

"Just respect the ocean when riding waves or when walking out of the surf," he said.

Mogck said any beach-goer can get information about beach safety from the lifeguards. He said lifeguards can recognize and point out rip currents, which are constantly changing.

Cape May lifeguards are on duty from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the summer season. Guards are one duty from the Cove (Fourth Street) end of Beach Avenue to Poverty Beach (Wilmington Avenue). There are also after-duty lifeguards, including one lieutenant, on call at lifeguard headquarters until it is dark. After dark, no guards are at the beach, but would respond to a page for a water rescue. Mogck said a water rescue at night is a more complicated process.

"After dark it's a whole other way of rescue," he said.

Mogck said for their own safety swimmers should be aware of the water conditions around them and listen to the lifeguards.



Sturdy sponsors C.A.R.A.BEAN 11th annual fundraiser

Sturdy Savings Bank is a sponsor of the Coalition Against Rape and Abuse's 11th Annual C.A.R.A.BEAN Fundraiser, Wednesday, August 6, 6 to 9 p.m. at Sunset Bay Restaurant in North Wildwood. All money raised will be dedicated to CARA's Independence Program. The program provides domestic violence victims exiting the shelter with 18 months of low cost housing. Pictured above are Kristen Raring Bixby, CARA Executive Director, and Kevin Deely, Sturdy's Vice President of Residential and Consumer Lending. For more information on the event, call 522-6489.

Taylor

Continued from page A1

preparing upgrades to Sandman Boulevard from the ferry terminal to Route 9. In 2005, the DRBA requested Lower Township Council to voice its support for a two-way Sheriff Taylor Boulevard

in the form of a resolution. Hummel said what was not made clear in the 2005 resolution was whether the township supported both right and left turns onto Sandman Boulevard from Sheriff

Taylor, and that was the purpose for his appearing before council in Monday.

Hummel said allowing traffic to leave the shopping center in both directions would only result in minimal delays,

and would correct an ongoing problem of people going the wrong way on a one-way street. Councilman Wayne Mazurek asked if the T-intersection could be made a three-way stop. Hummel said

that was possible, and would not even require Department of Transportation approval.

Hummel said the DRBA was funding the improvements along Sandman Boulevard, including the

changes to Sheriff Taylor, and the only thing required from Lower Township Council was the resolution supporting the changes.

Quarters

Continued from page A1

addressed and the list would be provided to the contractor.

Callahan said there is an issue of water not draining properly, but ponding on the floor outside the shower stalls. The old facility had a shower room, whereas the renovated facility has four showers in the men's locker room, and when the men get out of the shower to dry off water drips on the floor. Additionally, one shower stall is made to be wheelchair accessible, and there is nothing to keep the water from running out onto the floor. According to one guard, the locker room/shower area also has a mosquito problem in the evenings.

A number of complaints have to do with the locker rooms and showers. Out of 70 guards on the Cape May Beach Patrol, 25 are females (about 36-percent of the beach patrol), yet the women's locker room has only two showers. The women's locker room area is approximately 7'x 7.2'. None of the guards have full sized lockers.

The meeting room is not large enough to hold the 55-60 guards who report for duty each day, and the overflow must stand outside the room.

The lookout stand located at the rear of the building has no steps or ladder and cannot be accessed.

The first aid room is located between a hall and the captain's office. Those entering or leaving the captain's office must go through the first aid area. A table for those requiring first aid is located in a hall near an outside door and between the locker rooms. There is no privacy area as the headquarters previously had before the renovation.

The beach patrol building has an attic storage area, but the guards must use a folding ladder to reach the access hole - and they have to position the ladder perfectly to get it to stand properly. Once in the attic, the guards have to navigate around plumbing work and mechanicals and be careful not to bang their head on the sloping ceiling, from which roofing nails protrude.

The beach patrol is also continuing to use a metal storage container for storage space. The container was considered an eyesore by at least one letter writer to the Star and Wave, last summer.

Mogck said the opening of the building, which now has a temporary certificate of occupancy, was delayed causing a hardship on the guards.

"A couple of weeks ago we were sitting on the beach," he said.

Mogck said the beach patrol is "just about settled" in the new, smaller headquarters.

Callihan said the city was aware of the size of the building they were getting.



Cape May
MAGAZINE

THE BEACH
BEACH LIFE

On sale now in Cape May at:
Atlantic Books, Swains, Sunset Beach, Fudge Kitchen,
Whale's Tale, West Side Market, Colors, Kaleidoscope,
Morrows Nut House, Congress Hall and many other top spots

Can't get to town? Go to capemaymag.com
or call 1-888-898-2997 Visa/MC accepted

If you love Cape May...
Cape May
MAGAZINE
is made for you.

"...very handsome and well put-together"

- G. Rempel
Pittsburgh, PA

SHOP AROUND
Get the Best Deal in Town
at

Big Wally's

DISCOUNT FURNITURE
NORTH CAROLINA DIRECT

FAMOUS NAME BRANDS
AT DISCOUNTED PRICES

Braxton Culler • Hollywoods • Canadel
Stanley Chair • Sealy Bedding

Coming Soon, Lane Lifestyles Coastal & Cottage Look

"We are your other store at
the Jersey Shore with Beach Decor"

514 Now Road (Rt. 9) • Somers Point, NJ 08224 • (609) 926-1155

The Cape May Star and Wave loves your email.
☺
cmstarwave@comcast.net

GREETINGS

from

Platts Furniture

in Somers Point, NJ

Your Seashore Furniture Store

(Wish you were here!)

WWW.PLATTSHOMEFURNISHINGS.COM • 927-8200