

Introduction

The Dewey Beach Patrol (DBP) command structure includes: Department Head Captain Todd A. Fritchman (*Appendix G*) and Lieutenants Chris Muscara, Michael Thompson, Robert Mason, Ben Thornes, and Sam Coveleski. The DBP provided an average of twenty-six (26) certified lifeguards on a daily basis. Fourteen (14) lifeguard stands are utilized to cover 22 blocks (approximately 1.1 miles) of coastline. The patrol also provides bay rescue and Emergency Medical Services to the entire town on a daily basis from 9 AM to 5 PM and from 7 PM to midnight (Night Patrol) on some weekends and holidays.

Requirements for the Beach Patrol:

1. Must be at least 16 years of age.
2. Must submit a physical examination report certified by a physician.
3. Must be in excellent physical condition. Rookie workouts and veteran workouts are mandatory and strenuous. Beach conditions are dangerous at times.
4. Submit a completed application prior to March 15.
5. Complete a pre-employment physical test. Required before Captain's interview. The test consists of the following:
 - a. 1 mile run (on the beach)
 - b. 1-220 yard dash sprint
 - c. Rescue Simulations and aptitude testing
 - d. Pull-ups (Standard grip)
 - e. Push-ups (Until failure)
 - f. 500 meters swim in ten (10) minutes or less
 - g. 25 yard sprint swim (rescue simulation)
6. Must acquire First Responder Certification. An accredited first responder's course certification is required for every beach patrol member. This certification may be acquired in-house on an annual basis in partnership with the Delaware State Policy and the Delaware Fire School.
7. Complete a written beach patrol/U.S.L.A. exam – 80% minimum required for a passing grade.
8. Complete interview with Captain.
9. Provide a copy of your driver's license and social security card.
10. Complete a drug screening.
11. Comply with all policies listed in "Dewey Beach Patrol Policy Handbook/Work Agreement and Open Water Rescue Curriculum.

In order to maintain high standards and exemplary performance, all members of the patrol must undergo rigorous physical training and educational coursework. The DBP is nationally accredited by the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) to certify its members in open water rescue. Each guard is certified as: (1) an Emergency Medical Service Provider by the Delaware State Fire School, (2) as a Health Care Provider by the American Heart Association; and (3) an open water rescue lifeguard through the USLA (*Appendix A*). First year lifeguards are required to complete a minimum of twenty-one (21) days of rookie training that includes intense physical conditioning and the completion of the annual rookie test. In addition, the DBP is a standing member of the Sussex County Lifesaving Association (SCLA). All lifeguards must continuously complete routine training in CPR, standard first aid and c-spine injury stabilization, and beach/surf management.

The DBP safeguarded Dewey Beach on a daily basis from May 27, 2011 through September 11, 2011. Extended season duty typically applies. Operational duties begin at 9:00 AM for roll call, briefing and training. The lifeguards sign on at 10 AM sharp, clear the water at 4:57 pm and sign off at 5:00 pm unless an active response is in progress.

Due to public request, standards within the industry, and community stewardship, the DBP also provides a host of related services including, but not limited to:

- Handicapped access services
- Emergency Medical Services
- Beach Event Management
- Night Patrol
- Beach Ordinance Enforcement
- Marine Reptile stranding reports and disposal
- Junior Lifeguarding Program
- Youth and Adult Recreation Program
- Marine safety instruction and educational outreach to various groups
- Coastal Wave Dynamic Studies (*Appendix B*)
- Trash and Debris Removal
- Fecal Matter Clean-up
- Tri-State Bird Rescue Procedures
- Incident Command System (CIS) Training and Reporting
- DBP Competition Team
- Bay Rescue

The Junior Lifeguarding Program, Youth Recreation Program and educational outreach programs are funded in part by non-profit and private donations.

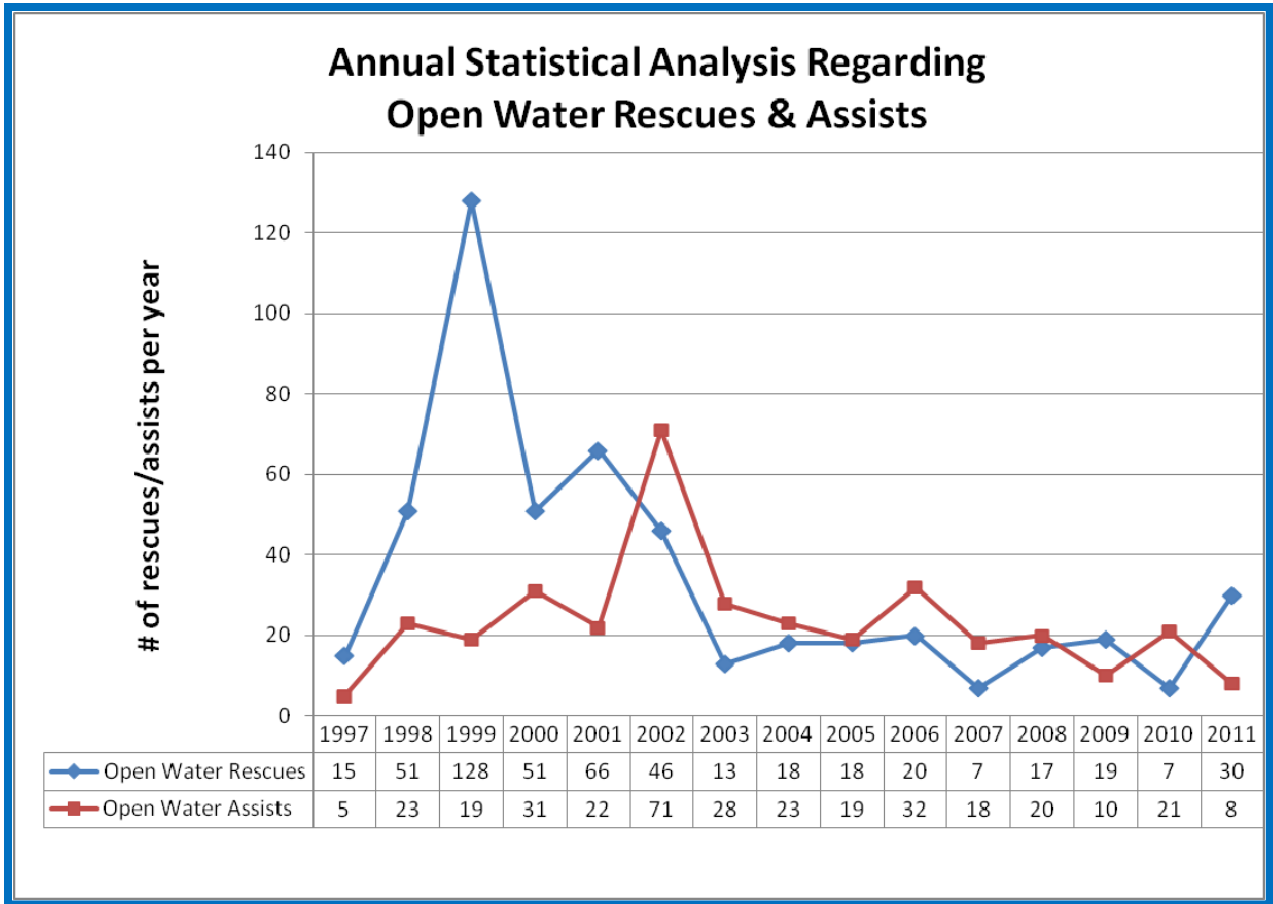
During the past summer seasons, the DBP has experienced some variations in rescue response services provided. This has been attributed to fluctuations in the number of visitors using the beach facility alterations of the coastline topography, coastal erosion and significant weather events. The hazards experienced by swimmers include profound long shore currents, profound “shore break” and rip currents. Weather patterns and the residual effect of beach replenishment have also been concerns.

Statistics

Open Water Rescue

Most rescues occur as a result of inexperience with the high energy impact of our surf zone (“shore break”), associated rip currents and long shore currents. A rescue is defined as any case in which a lifeguard physically extricates a victim from the water when the victim lacks apparent ability to do so alone. An assist constitutes a pro-active and preventative removal from the surf zone for physical or educational purposes. The following graphs indicate the annual statistical analysis of open water rescues, open water assists, missing persons, beach evacuations, and major and minor emergency response cases from 1997 to 2011.

Table 1: Open Water Rescues and Assists

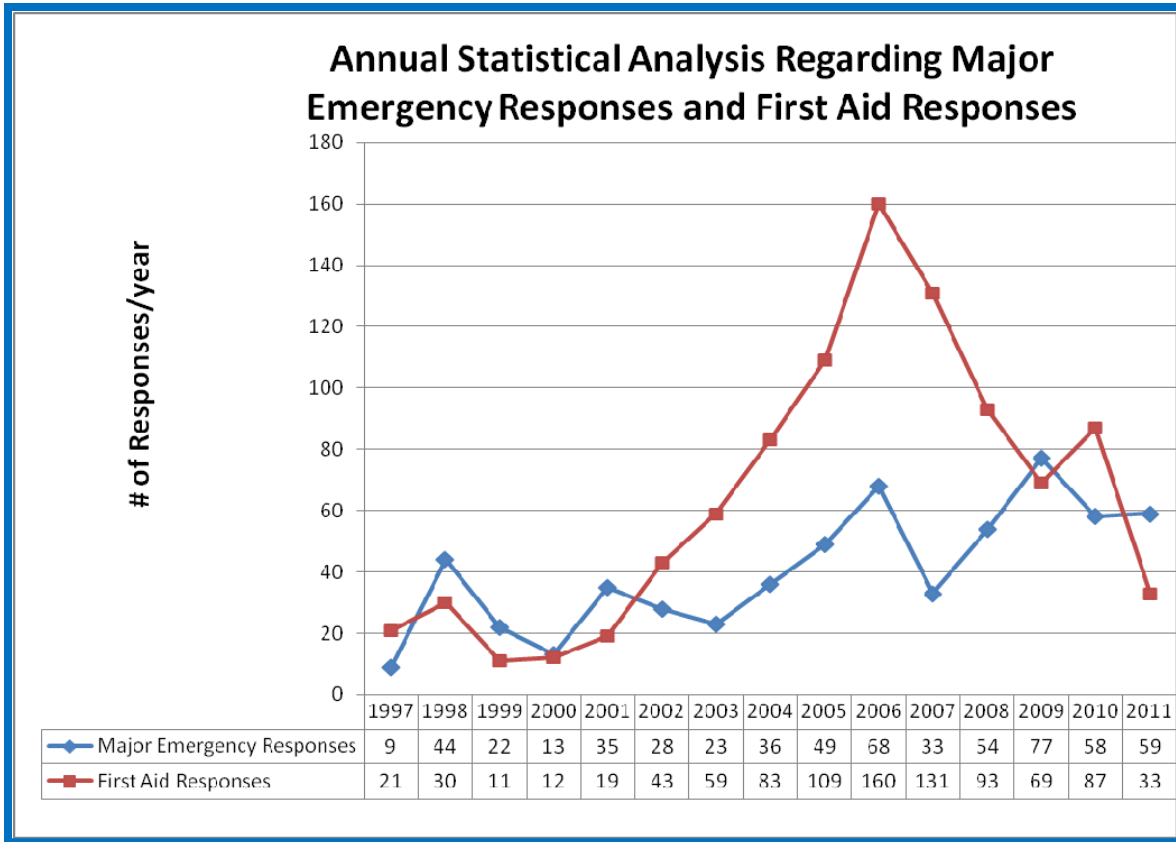


Emergency Medical Services

Major emergency response cases typically require transport or Advanced Life Support. These emergencies may include, but are not limited to, the following: broken bones, seizures, dislocations, cervical spine injury, impact trauma, lacerations, heat stroke, severe bleeding, cardiac arrest, blood sugar, bicycle accidents, falls on stairs, water in the lungs, drug and/or alcohol overdose, torn ligaments, hypersensitivity reactions, umbrella injuries, auto accidents, dog bites and unconsciousness. There were multiple cervical spine injury responses: several positive but no loss of life or exacerbated injury.

First aid responses typically require basic life support. These cases include, but are not limited to: abrasions, intoxication, dog bites, splinters, allergic reactions, fatigue, burns, insect bites, jelly fish stings, soft tissue damage, eye injury, fish hook puncture, heat exhaustion and sting reactions.

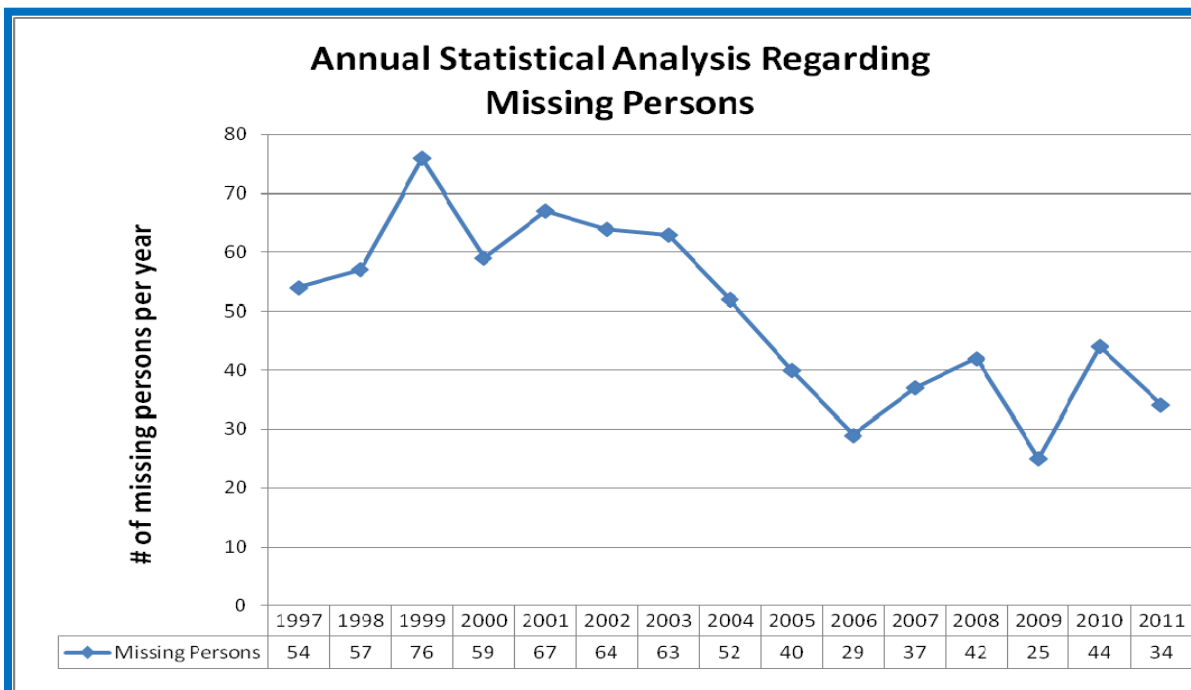
Table 2: Emergency Medical Services



Missing Persons

A lost person recovery plan is activated immediately upon request from the parent(s), guardian(s), and/or responsible party or when a lost person is discovered. This process is applied to youth and adults. We possess a return rate that averages approximately ten (10) minutes and many lost persons are from other jurisdictions including Rehoboth Beach and the State Parks.

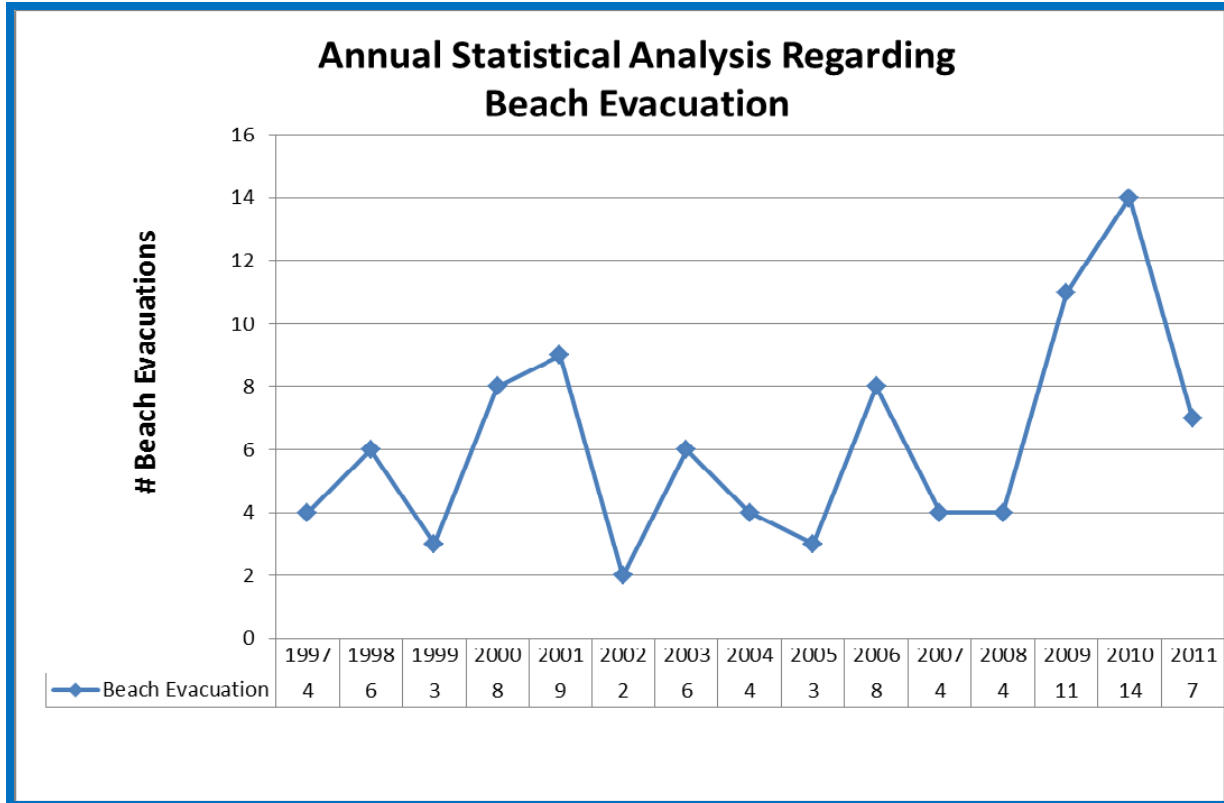
Table 3: Missing Persons



Beach Evacuations

Prior to or during significant weather events or marine hazards, the DBP may evacuate the facility. This typically includes, but is not limited to: lightening storms, water spouts/tornados, hurricanes, marine life activity, northeast windstorms and special events.

Table 4: Beach Evacuations



Night Patrol

The Town of Dewey Beach requested veteran members of the DBP to monitor the beach facility during designated evening hours. The operating period may be subject to change from time to time. Typical hours of operation are from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am running Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The purpose of this evening monitoring program is to maintain safety on the beach facility, enforce town ordinances, monitor beach fire permits, check for fishing licenses, trash pick-up and provide eyewitness testimony regarding ordinance violations to the Dewey Beach Police Department (DBPD). Night Patrol (NP) staff members are required to conduct all normal DBP duties and strictly adhere to professional code of conduct as demonstrated in the Dewey Beach Patrol Handbook/Work Agreement. (*Appendix C*)

NP Staff Members must meet the following criterion in order to qualify:

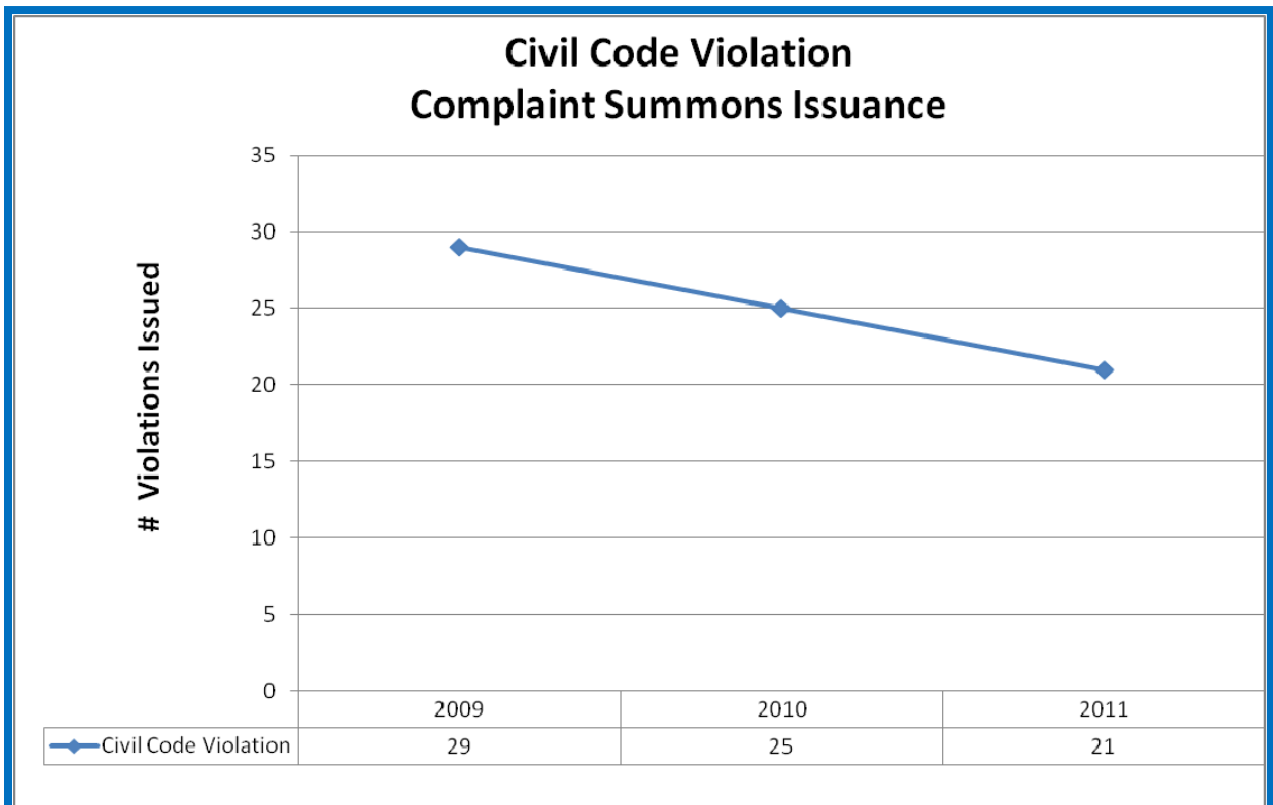
1. United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) certified. Staff members must
 - a. Complete at least 23 hours of physical training in a USLA certified training agency with an approved curriculum- (DBP)
 - b. Complete written examination (with a score of 85% or better)
2. At least two (2) years of open water rescue experience- (DBP)
3. First Responder Certified
4. At least two (2) hours pre-response training with the DBPD
5. Establish witness testimony protocol (training by DBPD)

6. Demonstrate comprehension of the use and care of the ATV and rescue response equipment including, but not limited to:
 - a. CPR mask
 - b. Buoys
 - c. Uniform
 - d. First Aid Supply
 - e. Emergency Medical Equipment
 - f. Lights
 - g. Handheld Communication Devices – 800 MHz and/or Motorola handheld.
 - h. Any other devices deemed necessary by the DBPD
7. Demonstrate a complete understanding of DBPD protocols. Including the use of the handheld radio sets.
8. Provide debriefing documentation to all agencies involved. This information must clearly document any/all trouble shooting and/or situations requiring intervention.
9. NP Staff Members are responsible for documenting all training hours, work hours, and applied rescue experience time. They are required to understand and uphold all town ordinances and have them readily available at all times.

Civil Code Violations

In order to control alcohol consumption and littering on the beach facility, highly tenured members of the Dewey Beach Patrol have undergone training from the Town Alderman(s), Dewy Beach Police Dept. and from the Beach Patrol Captain in regard to the issuance of Civil Code Violations relevant to consumption of alcohol and littering.

Table 4: Beach Evacuations



Beach Event Management

The DBP monitors and assess the facility at approximately 8:30 AM every day of the official summer season. Deficiencies are responded to or reported to the appropriate agency or department. The DBP also assists in crowd control, ordinance enforcement and medical services for events including, but not limited to: "Running of the Bull," skim-board camps and contests, weddings, bonfires and recreational facilities setup, monitoring and breakdown. Police intervention calls totaled (6) for this season.

Lifeguard of the Day

In order to provide adequate communications, assist with clerical, respond to inquiries, receive and advise visitors, and provide general maintenance to the Lifesaving Station (LSS), a "Guard of the Day" is posted at the LSS daily until staffing shortages dictate otherwise.

Tetherball Stations

The patrol operates and maintains (14) tether ball stations throughout the season. The demand from both youth and adults is high. Therefore, we plan to continue the program and include more stations. A description of the location of each of the tetherball stations can be found on the operations map.

(Appendix D)

Handicapped Beach Access Chair Usage

Beach Access chairs are available upon request to anyone needing additional assistance accessing the beach facility, primarily handicapped. The chairs are sturdy, light-weight, all-terrain, and specialized to allow easier access in the sand. A driver's license, local address and phone number are required for reservation and specific rules apply. This year alone, there were a total of **365±** provisions/transportations. The chairs are funded primarily through private donations by the Dewey Beach Lions Club.

Competition

In order to meet standards in the lifeguard industry, promote the Town of Dewey beach in a positive fashion, promote stewardship, and provide motivation for staff, the DBP provides a competition team on an annual basis. The team competes in local, regional, national and international USLA sponsored competitions. Although competitions are not a primary objective, the team has succeeded beyond expectations. The DBP has represented the town well by receiving many honors, including, but not limited to:

- ✓ 2002 Sussex County Lifeguarding Association (SCLA) Team Ocean Series runner-Up
- ✓ 2003 SCLA Team Ocean Series Champions
- ✓ 2003 Gateway United Team Runner-up
- ✓ 2004 USLA National Lifeguard Championship, Division A - 3rd Place
- ✓ 2006 Mid-Atlantic Regional Team Champions
- ✓ 2007 National Champions (Beach Flags, Open Water Rescue)
- ✓ 2008 3rd Place Team USLA National Lifeguard Championship
- ✓ Individual and individual team National Champions and runners up.
- ✓ 2009 USLA National Lifeguard Championship, Division A – 4th Place
- ✓ Individual and team national Champion Runner-up
- ✓ 2010 USLA National Championship, Div. A-second place; in conjunction with the SCLA.

- ✓ (5) national champions
- ✓ SCLA first place point scorer

Community

One of the most unique things about the Dewey Beach Patrol is the way in which the lifeguards give back to the community. In 1998, the DBP began a Junior Lifeguarding program to help educate children in the areas of water safety and open water rescue. Also, in 1998, the DBP began a youth recreation program, providing a safe and fun evening alternative for children and young adults in the community. The community has shown their perception and need for lifeguards in numerous cases. (*Appendix E*)

Junior Lifeguarding Program

The Junior Lifeguarding Program is designed to target ages 6 to 16. The program includes regular sessions began Tuesday, July 5th and held on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:15 to 11:30 AM. Individuals interested in participating should report to the Dewey beach Lifesaving Station (located on Dagsworthy Street and the beach). There is no charge for the program; however, donations are greatly appreciated.

The mission of the USLA and the Dewey Beach Patrol is as follows: "To establish high standards for open water (beach) lifeguards, to educate the public, and to promote actions intended to result in saving of human life in and around the marine environment."

Participants must provide the following:

- A basic physical exam, certified by a physician
- Demonstrate intermediate swimming ability
- A high degree of self-discipline during instruction
- Must be able to meet an intermediate level of physical fitness
- Must complete and return a liability waiver
- Must complete and return a registration form

The Program provides quality instruction for each participant by the Captain of the Dewey Beach Patrol whose qualifications include:

- Delaware Certified secondary level education teacher of Biology
- BS Biology, MS Science Education
- USLA certified open water rescue instructor, CPR, and standard initial first aid
- 29 years of open water rescue experience in training and management

Secondary Instruction provided by veteran members of the patrol and Emergency Medical Service Officers. Each participant typically receives official patrol shorts and logo T-Shirt and official membership in the USLA upon completion of the program.

The program will provide direct instruction and applied experience in, but not limited to the following areas: lifesaving history, lifeguard qualification and training, communication methods, health, fitness and safety, the surf beach, the marine environment, weather and other hazards, rescue equipment, public relations, drowning, preventative lifeguarding, water surveillance, aquatic search and rescue, records and reports, and components of a rescue.

Youth Recreation Program

The Dewey Beach Youth Recreation Program provides a facility, on the beach, that will meet the recreational needs of individuals ranging in age from early adolescents to teenage. The program is implemented, maintained, and managed by members of the Dewey Beach Patrol under the direction of the Patrol Captain.

The program is offered on an evening basis beginning at 5:15 pm and ending at sunset (weather permitting). The facility will be located on Dagsworthy Street and the Beach. The starting date will be July 5th and the program may continue through Labor Day.

The staff provides the following for the participants:

- Set-up and Break Down of all Equipment
- Supervision of recreational area
- Basic Skill Instruction (if needed or requested)
- Officiating of any team activity

The equipment and activities offered may include, but are not limited to: (for early adolescence) T-Ball, whiffle ball, rubber horseshoes, beanbag toss, ring toss, tether ball, STX Lacrosse (complete with goals and sticks, no contact), rubber footballs, soccer (complete with goals), basketball, and volleyball.

Educational Outreach Event (Sunset Park)

The Dewey Beach Patrol, in conjunction with Envirotech Environmental Consulting, Inc., The Division of Fish and Wildlife, The Center of The Inland Bays Water Use Plan Committee, and The Town of Dewey Beach host an Environmental Awareness and Educational Outreach Program annually. The program is held at Sunset Park in Dewey Beach. The program is inquiry based, hands on and provides educational outreach to individuals ranging from early adolescence to adults. The guards address environmental, ecological, and biological concepts found in and around the marine environment. *(Appendix F)*

Contributions

As a supplement to the Town provided funding, the DBP offers great thanks to those who have contributed to our cause. All contributors great and small are significant. Private donations support many of the daily services that the DBP provides. These services include, but are not limited to: beach access chairs, youth recreation program, junior lifeguarding program, Open Water Rescue, competition team expenses and Emergency Medical Service vehicles. The gracious contributions are critical to our efficient professional service.

The many contributors and local organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Atlantic Oceanside Hotel
- Jim Baeurle and Family
- William and Shirley Bush
- Joseph and Jan Churchman
- Dewey Bull
- Dewey Beach Civic League
- Dewey Beach Lions Club
- Commissioner Dale Cooke
- Carla Daulphin
- Barbara Dougherty
- Frederick and Tina Downs
- Michael and Anne Duffin
- Gary's Surf and Spray
- Grotto Pizza

- Highway One Limited Partnership
- Steve Huse
- Mama Celeste Pizza
- Meggin Holtzclaw
- Carl and Susan Johnson
- Nalu
- Paul Joyce
- Steve and Tami Judge
- Clarence Kolb
- Port
- Sea Breeze HOA
- Shane Karlik, SK Management
- Sharkey's Grill
- Tom Murphy and "The Beer On the Beach Group"
- The Little Store
- Steve Montgomery and The Starboard Restaurant
- Robert and Felicia Stone
- Touchdown for Kids
- Don Ziegler

Recommendations for Future Operations

1. Dewey Beach Patrol Employee Manual/Handbook evaluated by town attorney and incorporated into code.
2. All events, permitted or sanctioned by the Town of Dewey Beach, that take place on the beach, including, but not limited to skim board events, group outings, weddings, bonfires, etc. are communicated to the DBP at least 2 weeks before the event.
3. Dogs and cats are leashed when using the facility.
4. Funding to replace Lifeguard Stand signage.
5. Wages consistent with surrounding municipalities and townships (.25 across the board wage increase).