



SURF LIFE SAVING[®]

NORTHERN REGION



OPERATIONAL UPDATE | | DECEMBER

LIFESAVING

UNIFORM

SLSNR is encouraging all lifeguards to begin patrolling in the newly branded patrol shirts as soon as possible. We are aware that there is an issue of supply for some sizes and there will be no deductions for having the previous style of patrol uniform until supply issues are remedied. We ask that all clubs return redundant sizes of the new uniform and update SLSNR on further sizes required.

REGIONAL LG SERVICE - INTERNATIONAL LIFEGUARDS

Current SLSNR Policy is that a maximum of 5 International Lifeguards is employed. Because there were not enough applicants from SLSNR clubs for the RLS positions we require this year, the Board approved the recruitment of 15 International Lifeguards into the Regional LG Service. Going forward, it is SLSNR's intention to revisit the International Lifeguard model, and seek to put in place formal exchange programs with each country that intend to send Lifeguards to afford our Lifeguards the same opportunity of gaining employment and development opportunities overseas. At the same time, a 3-5 year development plan will be put in place to ensure we have sufficiently qualified, competent, motivated club members who wish to apply for the Regional LG Service so we are not faced with a shortfall as we have been this year.

REPORTING

SLSNZ have changed all paperwork to match the online data input processes for PAM to help transition patrols into paperless reporting. SLSNZ have provided all Clubs with a notebook to enable them to start doing this process. While these are not the 'on beach' capable product SLSNR envisaged, it is a starting point. SLSNR is encouraging the transition to the new forms and the paperless model but is still collecting copies of the physical forms for data integrity purposes for the current season. The current requirements with regards to sending in the physical forms, therefore, stands, meaning Clubs must have these forms to

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SLSNR within two weeks (14 days). SLSNR is now offering an email submission of this paperwork, where clubs can scan or photograph the forms and email them to Reports@surflifesaving.org.nz. SLSNR still intends to extend the capability of its clubs to provide on beach 'real time' incident reporting using the new digital network and appropriate hardware in due course.

BP RESCUE OF THE MONTH

This award has recently undergone some changes allowing multiple winners from the same Region as opposed to an arbitrary distribution of one from each Region. The first for ROTM has closed for rescues that occurred up to and including 30th November. SLSNR strongly encourage clubs to make regular entries using the **nomination form** online to ensure SLSNR Clubs and volunteers get the recognition they deserve for the great work being done on our beaches.

PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

While our volunteers and clubs have provided an excellent service during the series of recent tragic events this type of exposure to traumatic incidents can leave their mark. SLSNR, therefore, offer a Peer to Peer support program which can be accessed by calling SURFCOM who will put volunteers in touch with one of the Peer to Peer support team or for more in-depth support, an external professional trauma counseling program. For more confidential information, please contact **Chase Cahalane** – Lifesaving Manager.

COASTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

To further reduce the incidence of drowning and injury across SLSNR beaches, a comprehensive evidence-based approach to the allocation of lifesaving resources is being proposed. To achieve this, a coastal risk assessment is being conducted which is part of a nationwide coastal risk management project delivered by Coastal Research Ltd on behalf of Surf Life Saving New Zealand and Surf Life Saving Northern Region, and supported by the Infinity Foundation. In coming weeks a physical assessment of site hazards will be completed, relevant incident data will be reviewed, stakeholders will be consulted (especially Clubs), and existing safety interventions will be evaluated. The output will be a range of recommendations outlined in a supervision and surveillance model as part of a wider comprehensive coastal risk assessment report for all beaches in the Northern Region. Once this has been completed, SLSNR will work with the clubs and other stakeholders to oversee the implementation of the recommendations where appropriate.

TRAINING

INJURY TO VOLUNTEER LIFEGUARD

Recently, an experienced Volunteer Lifeguard suffered a spinal injury when participating in a club facilitated rock training session. The injury occurred due to the lifeguard hitting his head on the seafloor. The resulting injury required the lifeguard to be winched from the scene by the Westpac Rescue helicopter and flown to Middlemore Hospital. The injury caused fractures in three vertebrae, requiring surgery. An investigation into the incident has shown that the Lifeguard did not enter the water correctly. Paul Dalton, SLSNZ CEO has made reference to this incident in the recent Newsletter as a warning for clubs to be mindful of their H&S obligations, and SLSNR would like clubs to take this 'lesson learned' as a request to follow correct operational and training procedures at all times.

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EXAM/COURSE REGISTRATION

Please remember when registering members on courses to ensure that they are current members of your Club and meet all of the prerequisites for that Exam/course. It is your Clubs responsibility to check this and work/get your member to work with SLSNZ or SLSNR to resolve any issues before the Exam/course runs. Registrations also need to be done before the deadline, the winter cobwebs are still being dusted, with some registrations only coming in at the final moment or immediately and frantically after they close.

ATV TRAINING

The current requirement for formalised ATV Training has been identified as an organisational priority. Currently discussions and planning to re-implement a training course have started, supported by Yamaha who provided a specialist ATV trainer for the RLS induction. As an interim measure, SLSNR will be issuing all clubs with an ATV 'safe usage policy' to supplement the information in the POM for this season only.

FIRST AID

These are still currently organised at Club level via the approved external First Aid agencies. As this is a relationship between the Club and external provider, it is important that Clubs understand that SLSNR is not automatically part of this conversation so will not know who has done which course and when. It is, therefore, important that Clubs recognise their responsibility for ensuring that the official information of completion of course by their members is passed on to SLSNZ who are responsible for entering it onto the PAM database. This can happen in two ways:

1. When booking a course, Clubs remind / form the agreement, that, the provider will send/CC SLSNZ the information of who has attended and passed the course so it can be processed. This way it is official, straight from the provider.
2. When booking a course, Clubs form the agreement that the provider will send the Club an Official branded memo/invoice detailing who has attended and passed the course, the Clubs then send this on to SLSNZ form processing.

SLSNZ have already pushed out the information booklet surrounding First Aid which is available on their [website](#).

PAEDIATRIC CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR): KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF SURF LIFEGUARDS

A new and exciting research project is about to happen this summer. The study is open to surf lifeguards aged 16 years and over who **do not** have a health professional background. The ability to perform basic life support (BLS) when on patrol at our beaches is an important part of the skill-set of surf lifeguards. Competency in the performance of adult CPR is a skill that receives a great deal of attention during annual refreshers and re-training. In spite of this, we do not know much about CPR in a *paediatric context*. So we are about to conduct research on lifeguard's real and perceived paediatric CPR competency in the Northern region, and look forward to working alongside fellow lifeguards at Clubs during patrol hours over 10-12 weekends starting mid-November 2016. On certain days (dependent on timetable, staff, etc) patrol members will be asked to take part by completing an anonymous, self-complete survey (series of questions with tick-box answers), followed by a brief test of simulated CPR on a resuscitation manikin. The survey and the practical test will take around 20 minutes to complete. No names will be used in conducting/completing the study, so anonymity of participating clubs and club members will be preserved. Club Captains will be informed before the day of the patrol so no surprise

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visits; this study is not part of the patrol audit process. This is not a test or part of your SLSNZ annual lifeguard refresher, so it won't affect your ability to patrol in any way. Not all lifeguards will get the chance to participate, but we hope that by the end of January 250 of you will have taken part. Thanks in anticipation of your support, and see you at the beach. Jonathon Webber (Principal Investigator, Department of Anaesthesiology, Piha SLSC), Dr Kevin Moran (Co-Investigator, Faculty of Education, Muriwai VLS), Jessica Reilly (University of Auckland Medical Student, Raglan SLSC), Daymen Huband (University of Otago Medical Student, Surfing Medicine International).

REFRESHERS

With the season well and truly underway, now this is a timely reminder about the professional level needed around refreshers. As Surf Lifeguards we must complete an annual competency refresher to ensure we are adequately prepared to safely carry out patrolling operations for the coming season. These refreshers need to be taken seriously and completed in a professional manner. Please instill this attitude in your club members as there has already been a slip in the quality of some refreshers being performed. A single annual refresher is not a great ask and is a major step in making your members current for the season which has a whole flow of other serious implications.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH & SAFETY

H&S surveys have been created by SLSNZ's consultant H&S company, to assess the level of H&S awareness within clubs. The surveys have now been sent to club Presidents and Chairs. We will use the results of the survey to build a H&S Support structure for clubs in the form of a Volunteer Management Toolkit and a Risk Management Toolkit. Where possible this will be web based and highly visual. We hope to have this implemented towards the latter part of the season. **Please find the surveys below:**

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/PgCNYF>

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/f6yu8a>

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

A timely reminder, with our peak season now in full swing to be conscientious surrounding our Health and Safety especially when patrolling and training.

Remembering to wear a seatbelt and helmet when operating ATVs, PFD's in the IRB and being conscious of personal safety in the sun are all essential in preventing injury and maintaining a good Health and Safety culture. You can also find the 'Near Miss' option on the new Incident Report Forms. Near misses are important to report as they provide vital learnings for clubs and the organisation and we encourage that clubs to do this.

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GENERAL

This is a busy time of year managing the recruitment, administration, induction, training, and rostering of 53 seasonal staff many of them are new to the education team. These Community Education staff are all club members with 48 coming from SLSNR and the other 7 from the Eastern Region. The new Seasonal Community Education Support Officer, Simone Hollier, has just started on the team and clubs will see her actively managing and monitoring the Beach Ed programmes. Thank you to all those clubs who provide facilities for the Community Education Team to use, we hope to work with you all this winter to develop new programmes that clubs can help deliver next season.

JOB VACANCY

*Are you passionate about Surf Life Saving and being an integral part of the safe, effective delivery of our sports events? Do you enjoy practical, physical work with IRBs and engines? SLSNR is looking for someone to fill a part time, seasonal position to take charge of ensuring the relevant equipment is working, delivered, and maintained for our Event Lifeguard Team to do their job. The position requires someone who has solid knowledge, experience and interest in IRB's and being part of events. Ideally you will have experience as an Event Guard, but this is not essential. If you are interested please contact **Adam Wooler** – Operations Manager for more details.*

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