



Circular 112:18

Date: 20th December 2018

Subject: Trial of Surf Life Saving response to St John Ambulance Calls

Attention: Callout Squad Members, Callout Squad Coordinators, Patrol Captains, Club Lifesaving Officers, Operational Lifeguards

Description: New trial of Lifeguards responding to St John Ambulance calls in Northern Region and Coromandel

Circulars are available at: <http://lifesaving.org.nz/lifesaving/lifesaving-operations-circulars/>

St John Ambulance in conjunction with Surf Life Saving Northern Region, Surf Life Saving New Zealand Eastern Region's Coromandel Clubs, and Coastguard Northern Region will be trialling a system of co-response to appropriate and defined emergency incidents that Ambulance receive through the 111 system, commencing Friday 21 December 2018 at 6am. The trial will conclude on Sunday 24th March 2019.

The trial will relate to Ambulance priority 1 incidents known as Purple and Red codes, within defined and agreed geographic areas where the location of the incident has been ascertained. This is in your POM B document. Searches are not covered in the trial and will be responded to using existing procedures which involves referral to the appropriate agency (Police or RCC) for coordination.

The trial will be of ADVISORY communications to an incident such as drowning or cardiac arrest occurring in the vicinity of Surf/Coastguard assets and is not a TASKING requirement.

An ambulance call sign which will be known as "Marine Comms" is designated to the Marine Rescue Centre. In doing so, the incident will be sent electronically to a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) that is monitored by the SurfCom operator and after hours by the Coastguard Duty Officer within the Marine Rescue Centre. St John will also dispatch all other resources to incidents as per ambulance response plans. Incidents will be sent to Marine Comms 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In this trial agreement all 111 calls received by St John Ambulance, or notification from either Police or FENZ (Fire & Emergency New Zealand) within 12 Nautical miles out to sea and within 200 meters from the beach High water mark (in the Northern Region and Coromandel Peninsula) that require either a Purple or Red response will be sent to Marine Comms.

The SurfCom / Coastguard Duty Officer will receive the incident on the MDT, review it, and assess if an appropriate local Surf Lifesaving service is available by contacting the nearest lifesaving services Patrol Captain (refer SLS023), or the most appropriate Emergency Callout Squads (ECOS) coordinator to attend the incident if able. If unable to respond First Aid Level 3 Lifeguards, then the Patrol Captain will inform SurfCom who in turn will notify St John Ambulance of our non-attendance.

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If the incident is on the beach the most qualified First Aid lifeguard will attend. If the incident is in a carpark or Public Reserve the responding Lifeguard(s) must be over 18 years of age if possible. Incidents involving violence will not be responded to by Lifeguards. Callout Squads may be activated as /when required (refer SLS024).

No more than 3 x Lifeguards will respond to medical events other than Cardiac arrest. For any incident in the water, any Surf Lifesaving crew is appropriate to respond. For all incidents, the responding Surf Lifesaving staff will have an up to date Police vetting form completed. If required, St John Ambulance may stand Surf Lifeguards down from responding to incidents via SurfCom. SurfCom are not able to stand the responding ambulance resources down.

When SurfCom requires an ambulance for attendance at a beach, a call will be made using the normal process of dialling 111. When a call is lodged in the Ambulance CAD, it will be allocated to Marine Comms on their MDT as above, despite Surf Lifesaving resources likely already being in attendance. When responding, the Surf Lifesaving crew will ensure they have an AED, resuscitation equipment and radio (RT) with them. Surf Lifeguards will follow SLSNZ clinical procedures and clinical governance will be under Surf Life Saving New Zealand. Patient care provided will be documented and care will be audited by SLSNZ.

Surf Lifeguards on scene at incidents relating to 111 calls are welcome to access the St John Clinical Desk as required.

When St John are in attendance at an incident, St John will assume control / command of patient care, unless the patient is in the water.

Vehicular responses will be in accordance with Surf Life Saving New Zealand policy. This agreement does not afford SLSNZ to drive under St John policy.

Surf Life Saving Northern Region and Surf Lifesaving New Zealand will work with St John concerning any incidents that require review and both Surf Lifesaving agencies will provide access to all information requested, which may include access to staff where this will not compromise the wellbeing of the staff member in question. This would normally be for incidents such as Police requests, coroner enquiries, HDC complaints and enquiries, and consumer enquiries.

St John will be responsible for handling and responding to any media enquiries relating to 111 calls (unless SLSNR or SLSNZ are the lead agency with the incident being in the water and SLSNZ media Policy will be activated). Neither organisation will make comments about the others performance to media or any other agency / person.

Peer Supporters will be notified and support will be available to all Surf Lifeguards if requested. EAP access is available

All feedback please direct to the [Northern Region Lifesaving Manager](#) or the [Eastern Region Lifesaving Manager](#).

Calvin Hicks

Lifesaving Manager

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