



Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services



JOB DESCRIPTION

EMS BEACH LIFEGUARD

Summary Position Description

The Beach Lifeguard will maintain safe beach areas in his or her assigned zone, exercising high quality proactive and reactive ocean rescue skills and customer service functions. The individual provides practiced ocean and beach surveillance and rescue operations to ensure safety and prevent accidents; report and mitigate all patron, beach and ocean waters related situations; provide first aid, CPR and water rescue skills as needed. The Beach Lifeguard will answer citizen's questions and concerns, provides information as needed and competently performs related duties as assigned and in accordance with the United States Lifesaving Service Association's (USLA) best practices.

Critical Elements of Performance

The Beach Lifeguard will exercise tact, fitness, and good judgment in responding to service requests. Has thorough knowledge of the policies, procedures, and methods of proactive and reactive ocean safety, lifeguarding and customer service. The Beach Lifeguard understands the City and Department structure, policies and procedures as they pertain to the performance of the duties of the Beach Lifeguard. The Beach Lifeguard has knowledge of the City's beach ordinances, laws and regulations. The Beach Lifeguard has knowledge of and skills in USLA approved water rescue methods and specific medical first aid techniques. The Beach Lifeguard will be skilled in surf swimming, lifesaving and medical aid. The Beach Lifeguard Ability to maintain control in stressful situations. Ability to develop and maintain effective communications and relationships with all departments and agencies involved in the activities of the job. The Beach Lifeguard has familiarity with the beach area assigned and understanding in the varying level of competency that beachgoers have with the ocean waters. The Beach Lifeguard has the ability to perform duties necessary to promote the safety and welfare of the general public. The Beach Lifeguard has the ability to react quickly and calmly in dangerous and emergency situations. The Beach Lifeguard has the ability to use independent judgment and discretion as necessary in the performance of routine and non-routine activities. The Beach Lifeguard will have the knowledge of telecommunications and radio equipment operations.

Performance Standards

The Beach Lifeguard maintains control of beach rescue scenes. The Beach Lifeguard maintains high standards of accuracy in exercising duties and responsibilities. Exercises immediate actions to identify, communicate and correct any unsafe condition that occurs in areas of responsibility; reporting and documenting such to their supervisor. The Beach Lifeguard maintains high quality communication and interface with all City departments and divisions, co-workers, and the general public. The Beach Lifeguard educates the public on City beach ordinances and safe beach and ocean practices. Arrives at work at scheduled locations and times prescribed ready to perform duties and adheres to City and Department policies. The Beach Lifeguard maintains an enthusiastic, self-reliant and self-starting approach to meet job responsibilities and accountabilities. Accepts supervisory instruction and direction and strives to meet the goals and objectives of same and questions such instruction and direction when clarification of results or consequences are justified, i.e., poor communications, variance with City policy or procedures, etc. The Beach Lifeguard contributes to maintaining high morale among all employees. Develops and maintains cooperative and courteous relationships inter- and intra-departmentally, and with external entities with whom the position interacts. Tactfully and effectively handles requests, suggestions and complaints in order to establish and maintain good will. The Beach Lifeguard emphasizes the importance of maintaining a positive image and competence and maintains physical conditioning equal to their minimum qualifications for hire.

Knowledge-Skills-Abilities Required to Perform Satisfactorily

A. Knowledge

1. Thorough knowledge of beach lifeguarding services
2. Thorough knowledge of laws, regulations, and ordinances pertaining to beach regulations
3. Thorough knowledge of ocean rescue techniques
4. Knowledge of local emergency medical response system
5. Knowledge of the City's beach and ocean topography and areas
6. General understanding of City and Department policies and procedures

B. Skills

1. Skill in performing duties required of an USLA certified lifeguard
2. Skill in the use of tools and adjuncts associated with ocean lifeguard/rescue responses
3. Skill in ocean swimming techniques and rescue techniques
4. Skilled in the accurate completion of written reports and forms
5. Skilled in working well with people in a variety of situations
6. Skilled in working with career and volunteer emergency personnel
7. Skilled in using independent judgment in making emergency rescue decisions
8. Skilled in CPR and first aid provision
9. Skilled in the accurate check-off and maintenance of assigned equipment

C. Abilities

1. Ability to work well with others; including during high stress events
2. Ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships
3. Ability to work with and support emergency personnel in the accomplishment of their mission
4. Ability to work in stressful situations
5. Ability to follow oral and written orders
6. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
7. Ability to complete training drills
8. Ability to lift 50 or more pounds
9. Ability to work in extreme weather environments

~~APPROVED:~~

10. Ability to effectively utilize the lifeguard, rescue and medical equipment provided
11. Ability to perform the duties of a Beach Lifeguard
12. Ability to swim 500 meters (550 yards) in under 10 minutes

Minimum Qualifications

Minimum age of 16 at time of hire

Current CPR certification meeting the AHA standard of BLS Healthcare Provider

Current first aid certification meeting the ARC First Aid

Current ARC Lifeguard certification or equivalent

Must successfully pass pre employment endurance, USLA skills testing and required hours of training.

Preferences

Valid driver's license

Experience in ocean lifeguarding

Experience in EMS

Originated

09/13/2004

Revised

9/20/2018