



# FLAGLER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

204 SOUTH FLAGLER AVENUE • FLAGLER BEACH, FL 32136

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*CHIEF MATTHEW P. DOUGHNEY*

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## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

March 29, 2017

### "Beach & Water Safety"

While summer doesn't officially start until June 21<sup>st</sup>, our scenic beaches are open now and continue to be a very popular destination for residents and visitors. The following beach and water safety tips are being disseminated in an effort to increase safety for those who enjoy the beach and waterways in Flagler Beach.

Beginning Saturday, April 1, 2017, Lifeguards will be on-duty during weekends *only*. Stations will be manned from 10:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Daily staffing will commence on Memorial Day weekend (May 27<sup>th</sup>), and will continue through Labor Day (September 4<sup>th</sup>). If there is inclement weather (rain and lightning), Lifeguard Towers will not be staffed. Those who choose to swim during inclement weather must do so at their own risk.

Please be mindful of the following tips:

**Learn To Swim:** This is the best defense against drowning. Teach children to swim at an early age.

**Swim Near a Lifeguard:** The United States Lifeguard Association statistics over a ten (10) year period show that the chance of drowning at a beach without lifeguard protection is almost five (5) times as great as drowning at a beach with lifeguards.

**Swim with a Friend:** Many drownings involve those who swim by themselves. When you swim with a friend, if one (1) of you has a problem, the other may be able to help or signal for help.

**Check with the Lifeguards:** Lifeguards work continually to identify hazards. They can advise you on the safest place to swim, as well as places to avoid. Talk to them when you first arrive at the beach and ask for advice.

**Use Sunscreen and Drink Water:** Choose "broad spectrum" sunscreen rated from 15 to 50 SPF, or clothing that covers your skin. Reapply sunscreen regularly throughout the day and drink lots of water. Avoid alcohol, which contributes to dehydration.

**Keep the Beach and Water Clean:** Please utilize trash containers and remember to leave footprints in the sand, not your trash.

**Obey Posted Signs and Flags:** In Flagler Beach our Lifeguards utilize the following flags;

**Green Flag:** Low hazard

**Yellow Flag:** Medium hazard

**Red Flag:** Dangerous hazard

**Purple Flag:** Dangerous marine life, to include jellyfish

**Learn Rip Current Safety:** If you're caught in a rip current, stay calm and don't fight it by trying to swim directly to shore. Instead, swim parallel to shore until you feel the current relax; then swim to shore. Most rip currents are narrow and a short swim parallel to shore will bring you to safety. A video presentation on rip currents entitled "Break the Grip of the Rip!" can be viewed at the following website: <http://ripcurrents.noaa.gov/index.shtml>

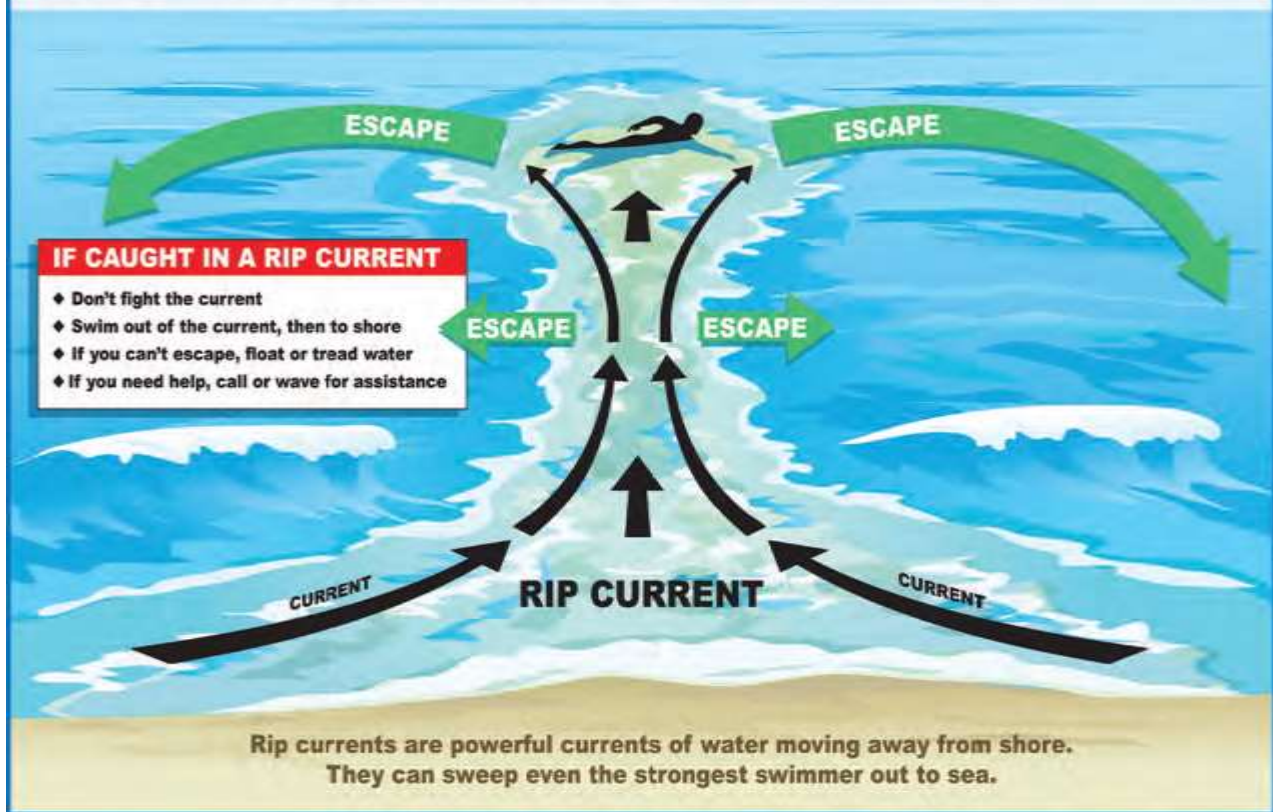
If you have any questions regarding Beach and Water Safety in Flagler Beach, please contact Recreation Director Tom Gillin at (386) 276-0402, or Chief Doughney at (386) 517-2020.

The following websites provide additional information on beach & water safety, as well as rip currents:

[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)

<http://www.usla.org/?page=RIPCURRENTS>

# RIP CURRENTS **Break the Grip of the Rip!**



**Special Note:** High Tide for July 4<sup>th</sup> this year is 8:50 p.m. and the Fireworks will start at 9:00 p.m. Please plan ahead and be prepared for the incoming tide.