BEACH AND OCEAN SAFETY TIPS

The ocean is a wonderful playground. Avoid its dangers by understanding its ways and being strong enough to enjoy it safely. Take swimming lessons.

1. Avoid Rip Currents - Stay away from rock jetties and piers
2. Swim Near A Lifeguard
3. Never Swim Alone
4. Do Not Dive in Headfirst
5. Obey Warning Signs and Flags
6. Take Sun and Heat Precautions - protective clothes, non-alcoholic fluids, hats, and sunglasses

STINGS BITES AND CUTS

Stinging jellyfish abound the Gulf waters and randomly sting whatever they touch. The most dangerous stinging jelly is the Portuguese man-o-war, a community of animals called zooids. This most obvious zooid is a purple float with its tentacles dangling in the water. Lifting the tentacle from the skin and dousing the area with vinegar brings relief. A paste of meat tenderizer and vinegar applied to the stings will counteract the toxin. Do not rub the area with sand - this will only ensure that all the stinging cells fire. And remember just because the man-o-war or jellyfish is washed up on the beach does not mean that you are safe.

EFFECTS OF HEAT & SUN

Protect yourself against sunburn. You can become sunburned even on cloudy or overcast days. Ultraviolet rays are harmful to the skin, regardless of the color of that skin. You should wear a high SPF sunscreen (15 or higher); wear loose fitting light colored clothing, hat & sunglasses. Also, drink plenty of non-alcoholic, caffeine free liquid to prevent dehydration.

GALVESTON WHEELCHAIR AVAILABILITY

The Galveston Sheriff’s Office Beach Patrol, in conjunction with the Park Board of Trustees, has secured 11 new beach wheelchairs through a grant from the Texas General Land Office. These chairs are designed for use on the thin sand. Our goal is to make these chairs available to the beach going public as a community service. The Galveston Sheriff’s Office Beach Patrol is honored to assist with making the beach accessible to those that would not otherwise be able to enjoy a day on the beach.

Beach wheelchairs are available at: Aufld Park, Stewart Beach Park, the west-end Pocket Parks and at various locations along the Seawall. A valid driver’s license will be held in deposit for use of a chair by the lifeguard in the area. Due to limited availability chairs may only be used in the designated areas.

The chairs are available for use starting Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day Weekend. The chairs are available free of charge on a first come first serve basis. We regret that reservations cannot be honored for beach wheelchairs.

For more information contact The Galveston Sheriff’s Office Beach Patrol @ 409-776-7769.

RECOGNIZE THE SAFETY FLAG COLORS

YELLOW Indicates surfers should be aware that there is a danger at the beach: The flag is flown on normal conditions to remind swimmers to stay away.

RED When waves conditions are expected to be off the ordinary, such as presence of strong wind or strong current or large surf. Additional warning signs such as wind direction, high surf and rip currents and seniors should be kept away from the surf line.

BLUE Indicates a potential problem with Jellies, Portuguese man-o-war, stingray or other marine life that could be a hazard for swimmers. Blue flags can be used in combination with other flags.

GREEN Indicates conditions are calm and wave sizes are small.

ORANGE TRIANGLE Indicates an environmental warning, or air and/or water quality in notice board for beach.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Emergency 9-1-1
Galveston Beach Patrol (409) 763-4769
Galveston Park Board
Main Number (409) 797-5000
East Beach (409) 797-5111
Stewart Beach (409) 797-5182
Dunbar Park (409) 797-5102
All Pocket Parks (409) 797-5102
Galveston Department of Planning and Community Development (409) 797-3660
Public Works
Beach Maintenance (409) 797-3630
Turtle Sightings (1866) TURTLES
The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital
Emergency Room (409) 772-1521

Camping and Campfires are prohibited on all beaches.

These observe no-swimming signs and obey flag warnings at all times. See chart above.

The mission for the City of Galveston Division of Planning is to provide the general public and city with information and guidance in order to have to effective and sustainable future land development and economic growth, through neighborhood revitalization, coastal planning, economic development, historic preservation, as well as long-range and comprehensive planning.

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