

# Dangerous Conditions - NSOP

## Section 1 – Patrol Operations

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

To identify when water conditions are not safe for use and patrol.

### 2.0 SCOPE

These procedures apply to all volunteer and regional lifeguard services.

### 3.0 REQUIREMENTS

<b>Required PPE</b>	Various depending on duty or task.
<b>Awards/Licenses</b>	SLSNZ Lifeguard Award SLSNZ Lifeguard refresher
<b>Training</b>	Risk Management and Assessment training
<b>Other</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment</b>	Red "Dangerous Conditions" Flag Yellow "Swimming Not Advised" Signs White "No Swimming" Signs TSB Club "Daily Conditions" Board

### 4.0 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Complete an operational risk assessment prior to the commencement of the patrol, and/or during the patrol as conditions change.
- 4.2 If a risk assessment identifies that the potential risks to water users exceeds the control measures and/or rescue capabilities of the lifeguards, then the water area must be advised as dangerous with the Red "Dangerous Conditions" Flag if patrol has not commenced.



- 4.3 Inform SLSNZ Regional staff or Surfcom where applicable, that dangerous conditions exist and there will be no flagged area just an 'Observational Patrol'.
  - 4.4 If conditions become dangerous during patrol due to the risk assessment in 4.2, then follow 4.3 and 4.5.
  - 4.5 Make announcement to beach users and swimmers that the flagged area is closing (or not opening) due to dangerous conditions.
  - 4.6 If flagged area is currently set up, then remove red and yellow flags and stands from the beach and keep flags out of public view.
  - 4.7 The red "Dangerous Conditions" flag should be flown from the tower or clubhouse flagpole/as well as on beach where available.
  - 4.8 Beach/water "Swimming Not Advised" signs should be displayed where available.
  - 4.9 If an operational IRB is present prior to water closure, it should remain on the beach for the duration of the patrol, unless it is unsafe to undertake a rescue.
  - 4.10 Other than removing the red and yellow flags, all other lifeguard equipment should remain in its designated location for ready access if required, unless it is unsafe to undertake a rescue.
  - 4.11 Place "Swimming Not Advised" signs if available, in the usual swimming areas, at intervals along the beach and at all main beach access ways.
  - 4.12 The "Daily Conditions" shall read "Swimming not advised - dangerous conditions"
  - 4.13 Lifeguards must maintain surveillance of the beach and potential water users identify persons at risk and undertake preventative actions if required.
  - 4.14 Where necessary, lifeguards should be positioned on the beach to advise the public of the identified dangers.
  - 4.15 Roving Patrols may be utilised to provide safety advice and preventive actions along the beach where resources permit.
  - 4.16 If the dangerous conditions change, and/or additional resources become available, another operational risk assessment should be completed and patrol re-opened, if the operational risk assessment permits.
- Notify SLSNZ regional staff, Surfcom if the water area is to be reopened, if applicable.