Flagged Patrol Area - NSOP

Section 1 – Patrol Operations

Version Number: 1.0

Effective Date: 01 October 2021

Review Date: 30 April 2023

Document Owner: National Lifesaving Manager

1.0 PURPOSE

To detail the minimum requirements necessary to provide a safe flagged patrol.

2.0 SCOPE

These procedures apply to all volunteer and regional lifeguard services.

3.0 REQUIREMENTS

Required PPE	Full Lifeguard/Patrol Support Uniform
Awards/Licenses	SLSNZ Lifeguard Award SLSNZ Lifeguard Refresher SLSNZ Senior Lifeguard Award – IRB Driver, where applicable SLSNZ Senior Lifeguard Award – IRB Driver - Refreshed SLSNZ Lifeguard Award – IRB Crew, where applicable Drivers Licences where applicable
Training	N/A
Other	N/A
Equipment	Refer to Minimum Patrol Equipment CSOP

4.0 INTRODUCTION

A flagged patrol is the primary means of patrolling. Other methods of patrolling may be utilised in addition to, or in substitution of a flagged patrol, where service agreements allow. Refer to CSOP Service Agreement for information on local variances.

5.0 PROCEDURES

5.1 At least two (2) qualified and refreshed lifeguards must be present at all times during the patrol operation. Clubs may set a higher minimum standard in their CSOP.

5.2 Where an IRB is used on patrol, a minimum of three (3) qualified and refreshed

lifeguards must be present at all times during the patrol operation. At least one lifeguard must be a qualified and refreshed IRB Driver and another lifeguard must be a qualified IRB crewperson.

5.3 Ensure the flags are placed in the location prescribed by the Patrol Captain following the operational risk assessment.

5.4 Set up flagged patrol in chosen location – refer to Patrol Set Up-Pack Down NSOP and/or CSOP.

5.5 Patrol shelters and/or portable towers shall be located in the most appropriate position to ensure full surveillance of, and access to, the flagged patrol area.

5.6 The flagged patrol area should be set up to effectively manage the environmental risks, the water users and the available lifeguard resources and equipment.

5.7 Patrol flags, IRB/RWC/Boards/Tubes shall be positioned as close to the water's edge as practicable.

5.8 A 'Daily Conditions Board' should be placed at the main beach access point to the flagged patrol area.

5.9 Appropriate hazard and information signage should be placed at adjacent beach access points and specific hazards, where signage is available.

5.10 Where practicable, patrol members shall ensure the beach is clear of obvious hazards such as broken glass, bottles, needle sticks, branches, floating debris, etc., using appropriate PPE where required.

5.11 Fill in any beach/sand hole (trip hazards) where necessary and practicable to do so.

5.12 Remnants of beach fires in or around the patrol area should be investigated where practicable. Use PPE where necessary, e.g. protective footwear. Where practicable douse hot spots with water or, if the fire is unable to be completely extinguished, mark off the site and consider contacting the NZ Fire service by dialling 111 if there is potential risk to property and/or the environment.

5.13 Where multiple patrol members are present, the Patrol Captain or their delegate shall assign patrol duties and tasks e.g. Flags, Tower Surveillance, and Roaming Patrols.

5.14 Lifeguards should ideally rotate roles on a regular basis – as directed by the Patrol Captain – e.g. every 30 minutes, to keep lifeguards alert, and minimise fatigue and complacency in order to maximise the effectiveness of the patrol.

5.15 Lifeguards assigned to surveillance duties must not utilise personal mobile phones or other devices which may distract attention from their duties with the exception of

5.16.

5.16 Lifeguards may utilise personal mobile phones and/or other devices to;

a) aid SLS communications where radio traffic is high, e.g. in emergency situations

b) search NSOPs and/or CSOPs relevant to their current task or duties.

5.17 Lifeguards shall maintain observation of the flagged area for the duration of the patrol from a suitable advantage point, and be able to respond immediately with rescue tube and fins, and/or a rescue board where necessary and practicable, whilst swimmers are in the water.

5.18 Where practicable, when a lifeguard is physically positioned in the flagged patrol area, a second lifeguard should maintain observation of the flagged area from an elevated position (mobile tower/facility tower/high point on sand dunes, etc.) at all times during patrol operations while swimmers are in the water between the flags.

5.19 Prescribed radio channels shall be constantly monitored. Refer to Radio CSOPs for the correct radio channels.

5.20 The Patrol Captain may approve the monitoring of beach and water users upon the conclusion of the flagged patrol area, so long as there are sufficient resources and competency to respond using the rescue equipment permitted by the Patrol Captain.