



# Observational Patrol - NSOP

## Section 1 – Patrol Operations

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

To detail the Observational Patrol method and its application.

### 2.0 SCOPE

These procedures apply to all volunteer and regional lifeguard services.

### 3.0 REQUIREMENTS

<b>Required PPE</b>		Refer to relevant IRB, RWC, Vehicle/ATV policies and CSOPS.
<b>Awards/Licenses</b>		Qualified Surf Lifeguard (refreshed) Appropriate driver's license
<b>Training</b>		N/A
<b>Other</b>		Flagged Patrol Area NSOP Roaming Patrol NSOP
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>From Patrol Tower</b>	Radio + aqua-bag (radio waterproof bag) Rescue tube and fins First Aid kit, AED, O2 Phone (mobile or landline) Binoculars
	<b>On ATV</b>	Adherence to maximum capacity (as per ATV owner's manual) Radio + aqua-bag (radio waterproof bag) Rescue tube and fins (gloves, resus mask, pen/paper) First Aid kit, AED, O2
	<b>Powercraft</b>	Qualified IRB Driver (refreshed) Qualified IRB Crewperson Enough correctly fitted helmets and lifejackets to allow ALL



		crew access to correct fitting sizes PLB if the craft is proceeding around a headland out of sight from the patrol tower Radio + aqua-bag (radio waterproof bag)
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## 4.0 INTRODUCTION

This alternate patrol method supports beach managers (Club Captains & Patrol Captains [PC]) by conserving lifeguard resources when they are not needed, ensuring that lifeguards can be used more effectively in the right places and at the correct times. The Observation Patrol can be used during regular patrolling hours if water user numbers are low, or to extend patrol hours, either during a rostered Flagged Patrol on a day or to extend a patrol season.

Several factors must be considered when using an Observation Patrol, including the types and competence of the water users, the hazardousness of the beach and surf conditions, and the distribution of water users along the beach.

## 5.0 PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Minimum number of Lifeguards required: Two (The PC must be one of the two lifeguards).
- 5.2 Patrol Captains must continue to exercise a duty of care and plan resources based upon the need at any given time. All the rostered patrol members must be available to return to the beach if required within the times set out in the Club CSOP Minimum Patrol Times.
- 5.3 Radio contact must be maintained with at least two members in the rostered patrol or three if an IRB is present.
- 5.4 Patrol Captains must notify the Regional Manager or Duty Manager before initiating the Observation Patrol, if an Observation Patrol is required within the times a Base Patrol or Flagged Patrol is stipulated in Club CSOP Minimum Patrol Times. Failing to do so will result in a patrol breach.
- 5.5 Assessment of the types and competence of the water users: if a large proportion of water users are swimming, designating a patrolled area using red and yellow flags can be an effective way of managing their safety. If most water users are surfing or using recreational boats, then red and yellow flags may not be necessary.
- 5.6 Assess the hazardousness of the beach and surf conditions: where there are inshore holes, rip currents, and/or large waves, the best way to manage swimmer safety is to designate a patrolled area using red and yellow flags. If the conditions are less hazardous, an Observation Patrol may be appropriate.



- 5.7 Assess the distribution of water users along the beach: where water users are spread out, an Observation Patrol may enable you to provide services over a wider area, rather than focusing resources in one small area. However, designating a Base Patrol using red and yellow flags can help concentrate water users; this can also help limit swimmers’ interaction with other recreational activities, i.e., recreational boats.
- 5.8 Use the Observational Patrol when beach user numbers are consistently below (for at least 1 hour) those stated in Table 5.5.1 ‘Critical minimum public numbers threshold values’ for your beach type indicated in Table 5.5.2 ‘List of New Zealand beaches under four main beach types’. Please note, the threshold of water users will differ with wave height.
- E.g. Karioitahi Beach (Dissipative beach); 5:00 pm; 0.5-1.0m: The Observation Patrol method can only be used if there are less than 11 water users within an area 500m either side of the flags.
- 5.9 The threshold for your beach type must exist for at least 1 hour prior to changing over from a Base Patrol or Flagged Patrol to an Observational Patrol.

Table 5.5.1 Critical minimum public numbers threshold values.

Surf Size	0 - 0.5 m	0.5 - 1.0 m	1.0 - 1.5 m	1.5 - 2.0 m
<b>Beach type</b>	<b>Critical minimum public numbers</b>			
<b>Dissipative</b>	14 Swimmers	11 Swimmers	9 Swimmers	8 Swimmers
<b>Intermediate</b>	25 Swimmers	20 Swimmers	16 Swimmers	13 Swimmers
<b>Reflective</b>	25 Swimmers	16 Swimmers		
<b>Tide-modified</b>	25 Swimmers	24 Swimmers		



Table 5.5.2 List of New Zealand beaches under four main beach types

Dissipative			
Baylys Beach	Karioitahi Beach	North Piha	Sunset Beach
Bethells Beach	Muriwai Beach	Oreti Beach	
Karekare Beach	Ngarunui Beach	South Piha	
Intermediate (longshore bar and trough, rhythmic bar and beach, transverse bar and rip, low tide terrace)			
Ahipara Beach	Lyllall Bay	Paekakariki Beach	Tolaga Bay
Bowentown Beach	Maketu	Pakiri Beach	Waihi Beach
Brighton Beach	Mangawhai Heads	Papamoa Beach	Waikuku Beach
Carters Beach	Midway Beach	Pauanui Beach	Waimairi Beach
Castlecliff Beach	Mount Maunganui	Pines Beach	Waimarama Beach
Castlepoint	New Brighton Beach	Pukehina Beach	Wainui Beach
Clifton Beach, Sumner	North Beach, Christchurch	Rapahoe Beach	Waiotahi Beach
Cobden Beach	North Beach, Westport	Riversdale Beach	Waipatiki Beach
East End	Oakura Beach	Ruakaka Beach	Waipu Cove
Fitzroy Beach	Ocean Beach, Hawke's Bay	South Brighton Beach	Waitara Beach
Foxton Beach	Ocean Beach, Whangarei	Spencer Park Beach	Waitarere Beach
Hahei Beach	Ohope Beach	St Clair Beach	Warrington Beach
Himatangi Beach	Omaha Beach	St Kilda Beach	Whangamata Beach
Hot Water Beach	Omanu Beach	Tairua Beach	Whiritoa Beach
Kai Iwi Beach	Onemana Beach	Taylor's Mistake Beach	Whites Bay
Kaka Point	Opunake Beach	Thornton Beach	Woodend Beach
Karoro Beach	Otaki Beach	Titahi Bay	
Reflective			
Marine Parade	Westshore Beach		
Tide-modified			
Browns Bay	Milford Beach	Red Beach	Takapuna Beach
Long Bay	Orewa Beach	Scorching Bay	Wenderholm Beach
Mairangi Bay	Oriental Bay	Tahunanui Beach	Worsler Bay

5.10 While operating an Observational Patrol, undertake the following tasks:

- a) Actively monitor beach and water users as far as practical (from headland to headland)
- b) Educate beach and water users of hazards, only if they are engaging in activity in the immediate area of the hazard, e.g., swimming in a rip current or hole by dispatching the second lifeguard.
- c) Encourage the safe interaction of water and beach users through the Public Address system or loud hailer
- d) Respond to incidents as required. Notify SurfCom before responding to any incident requiring the full patrol team's attention, and provide a situation report
- e) Monitor the conditions and the number of water users, and request further support if necessary, either by calling back rostered lifeguards or through SurfCom deploying an ECOS, or consulting the lifesaving manager's delegate



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- f) Record the beach and water user observational data for the Patrol Captain's form
- g) Maintain radio and/or mobile phone contact with the patrol at all times.