



1.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all clubs, members and employees of SLSNZ.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline SLSNZ's position with First Aid Operations conducted by Surf Lifeguards or Patrol Support members during Surf Lifeguard patrols or events.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Having First Aid skills and knowledge is a fundamental part of what Surf Lifesaving Clubs and Surf Lifeguards' offer to the community. In an average year, Surf Lifeguards provide First Aid on to several thousand people. The extent of this First Aid ranges from minor wound care to the resuscitation of cardiac arrest or drowning. Standardisation of protocols, equipment, and training allows for safe and uniform patient care. The role of SLSNZ members on patrol is to assist patients with low level medical needs or for patients with high levels of need, keep them alive until more advanced care is available.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this policy:

1. NSOP: National Standard Operating Procedures

5.0 RELATED DOCUMENT, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

1. SLSNZ Surf Lifeguard Award Manual
2. SLSNZ First Aid Equipment Standards
3. SLSNZ NSOP – First Aid Equipment
4. SLSNZ NSOP – Pre-Patrol First Aid Equipment Check
5. SLSNZ NSOP – End of Patrol First Aid Equipment Check
6. SLSNZ NSOP – Pre-Patrol Check on AED
7. SLSNZ Policy – Methoxyflurane
- 8.

6.0 EXCEPTIONS

There are no exceptions to this policy.

7.0 POLICY

SLSNZ's main objective in providing first aid services is to help preserve life, which ties into our organisational vision of 'No one drowns on our beaches'. For lifeguard patrols and services, working with other First Aid emergency services to assist patients is key.

- 7.1 SLSNZ shall maintain its own First Aid Award pathway/curriculum to ensure that:
 - 7.1.1 Surf Lifeguards gain knowledge and skills commensurate with the position.
 - 7.1.2 The knowledge and skills are in keeping with SLS-specific standards, teachings, and protocols.
 - 7.1.3 Surf Lifeguards maintain that knowledge and skills through practice, revision, and simulation.



Lifeguarding First Aid Operations

7.1.4 Surf Lifeguards have a sense of professionalism and the mindset that if wearing the SLS uniform, you are expected to have a certain level of emergency/first-aid/resus training. If Surf Lifeguards are deemed 'not competent', they recognise that, and take steps to get competent.

7.2 All members on a SLS Patrol must hold a refreshed Surf Lifeguard Award or Patrol Support Award. This ensures that they all have current minimum training as described in the SLSNZ Surf Lifeguard Award Manual.

7.3 SLSNZ shall publish and keep up-to-date:

7.3.1 NSOPs on minimum First Aid equipment

7.3.2 Approved list of equipment standards known as 'SLSNZ - First Aid Equipment Standards'

8.0 PROCEDURES

8.1 At all times during patrol, even when a First Aid incident is underway, visual supervision of the patrolled area must be maintained.

8.1.1 If a patrolled area cannot be maintained due to insufficient resources the area must be closed.

9.0 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Policy owner	Chief Operations Officer	Date issued	July 2022
Content Manager	National Lifesaving Manager	Revision date	July 2025
Approved By	Chief Operations Officer		