

Safety Measures Put in Place for Parks Season 2014 Fred Henne Territorial Park Beach

Based on the Lifesaving Society's recommendations in the Fred Henne Territorial Park Beach Audit Report, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has developed an implementation plan to put safety recommendations in place.

Further information on Layers of Protection (LOP) can be found in Appendix C of the [Fred Henne audit report](#).

Level of Protection	Primary Signage	Secondary Signage	Public Education	Public Rescue Equipment	Emergency Communication	Basic Staff Training	Lifeguard Supervision
1	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
3	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The current Level of Protection at the Fred Henne Territorial Park Beach is Level 2. The following actions are being taken to move the Level of Protection at the beach to a Level 7, which is the highest level possible for an unsupervised waterfront.

Level 1: Represents a completely unsupervised beach with no signage and no additional equipment of any kind.

Level 2: Primary Signage - Primary signage contains warnings positioned at a conspicuous point as the user accesses the general area, typically between the parking area and the waterfront, allowing for the best opportunity to capture the attention of users prior to their entry into the beach area.

ITI actions:

- Develop policies regarding beach rules, admission requirements and emergency procedures.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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- Install new/updated primary signage (beach rules, admission requirements, safety procedures) at main access points and in nearby change facilities and kitchen shelters.

Level 3: Secondary Signage - Secondary signage is positioned right at the area of concern, such as on the beach. Many users may not stop to read primary signage, so additional signage in potentially hazardous areas will help to minimize risk. Signage will ideally use graphic symbols for ease of understanding.

ITI actions:

- Identify all known hazards (cliff diving area, holes, drop-offs).
- Determine maximum size of swimming area, “no-swim” locations and “no-boat” locations.
- Install signage as close to hazards as possible and use symbols/graphics where appropriate.

Level 4: Public education - Providing educational materials and information to the public can assist in preparing them for safe use of the waterfront and provide tips on how to safely enjoy the beach.

ITI actions:

- Install a Lifejacket Loaner Station (INSTALLED IN AUGUST 2013).
- Provide education on dangers of using inflatable rafts/toys at the beach.
- Develop a territorial-wide public education program on the importance of supervision.

Level 5: Public Rescue Equipment - The decision to locate rescue equipment for use by the public in case of an emergency is still under consideration. Options may include having equipment available all the time, or having parks staff place equipment only during hours of operation.

ITI actions:

- Purchase safety equipment identified by the Lifesaving Society (reaching pole, buoyant throwing assist) and make available during standard hours of operation.

Level 6: Emergency Equipment and Incident Response - In the case where an injury or aquatic emergency occurs, access to emergency services may be required. This can range from providing an emergency telephone to directing the public to the nearest emergency facilities.

ITI actions:

- Expand emergency procedures manual including development of public emergency signals.
- Develop safety and supervision plan.
- Develop and display an emergency contact list.

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- Identify a nearby phone for emergency use or install a direct-dial phone at the beach (options still being evaluated).

Level 7: Staff Training – In the event of an emergency, parks staff could provide assistance until fire or ambulance crews arrive on scene. Programs and training can be customized to suit the waterfront and staff comfort level.

ITI actions:

- Contract Lifesaving Society to deliver training to all park staff (park officers, contractors, ITI staff) in basic waterfront and local emergency procedures.

The cost to put these safety measures in place is estimated at approximately \$60,000-\$75,000.

While the recommendations do not specifically include lifeguards, ITI has engaged the Lifesaving Society to perform a study to determine the specific requirements for placing certified lifeguard staff at the beach, including an estimate of costs and possible restrictions on the beach. The Lifesaving Society has advised that all layers of protection must be in place before lifeguards can be safely put in place. The report is expected in February 2014.

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