

View results

Respondent

96

Anonymous

107:34

Time to complete

1. CLUB/SERVICE \*

Bondi Surf Bathers Surf Lifesaving Club

2. BRANCH \*

Sydney

▼

3. DATE OF INCIDENT \*

3 October 2022

4. TIME OF INCIDENT \*

11:07am

5. NAME/S OF LIFESAVERS(S)/LIFEGUARD(S) INVOLVED IN RESCUE (check that all nominees are proficient and members on SurfGuard) \*

Michael Hallam  
Noah Kaplan  
Eddy Cavanagh  
Ronny Krite  
James Mclellan  
Simon Smith

6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT \*

Bondi Beach

7. SURFGUARD INCIDENT NUMBER (if available). *Please note all rescues should be recorded either during or after hours*

L221030856

8. NOMINATING PERSON NAME \*

Simon Smith

9. NOMINATING PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS \*

simon.smith@meshn.com.au

10. NOMINATING PERSON CONTACT NUMBER \*

0414410537

11. NOMINATING PERSON CLUB/ORGANISATION \*

Bondi SBSLC

## 12. OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT \*

Nightingale Patrol was rostered on Monday 3 October (Labour Day). The beach was not very busy early on but as the sun started to come out, more swimmers and surfers started to come down to the beach. The surf conditions were challenging (approximately 2m ESE swell at an 11 second period), the water was still quite cold, this reduced the number of swimmers. The number of surfers was increasing, with about 50-80 craft on the water.

At approximately 11am, Michael Hallam (PC) noticed a surfer get very close to another surfer that was paddling out. The surfer paddling out noticed the other surfer getting close, got off their board and dived under a wave. The surfer on the wave attempted to turn and cut further across the wave, got unbalanced and fell forwards face first onto the other surfers board. Michael saw his head "snap" back forcefully as he hit the board. He said it looked like he was in a car accident and was a very similar motion to a "whiplash".

Michael immediately tasked Noah out on a board to assist the patient. While Noah was paddling out we noticed that the other surfer grabbed the patient and started violently waving and calling out for help. The patient was underwater and had lost consciousness, the surfer was struggling to keep the patient up. Eddy Cavanagh and Julie Pritchard started heading out to assist Noah bring the patient to shore.

Michael radioed SurfCom to notify them that we have an unconscious patient being removed from the water and it was not known if they were breathing. Eddy helped Noah get the unconscious patient onto the board and Noah started paddling in, he was struggling initially, and then was able to catch a wave into the beach. Simon and a lifeguard carried the patient out of the water and onto dry sand, they immediately put him on his back and checked for a pulse and breathing. The patient was foaming at the mouth, had eyes bulging out of their sockets and was clearly unconscious. SurfCom was notified of the updated information and an ambulance was requested. After determining that the patient was not breathing, they started with 10 chest compressions and then rolled the patient onto his side as he started bringing up water and started shallow breathing.

James Mclellan came to assist and started cutting the wetsuit off and applied the defibrillator pads. The defibrillator advised that the patient's heart was functioning normally and shock was not required. Ronny Krite managed the head of the patient, always ensuring the airway was clear and the head and neck was stable. Simon and James work on getting the BVM ready, and then placed the BVM on the patient with Ronny's assistance. Simon was ventilating the patient in time with his shallow breathing to ensure that the maximum amount of oxygen could get into the lungs. After a few minutes we noticed the patient's eyes become clearer and he started regaining consciousness. The patient continued to vomit water that had been inhaled during his time while he was underwater and unconscious.

Ronny managed the airway of the patient for the duration of the incident, ensuring the airway was cleared and working in collaboration with the lifeguards to continue with treatment as the scenario unfolded. The patrol team and lifeguards remained with the patient for over an hour while paramedics and police arrived to administer further treatment and control crowds that had subsequently formed on the promenade to watch the incident. The patient, for precautionary reasons, was placed on a spinal board and strapped to the board before being carried up the beach and placed into an ambulance for further treatment. At this stage, the patient had regained consciousness, although did not have any recollection of what had happened and did not know where they were.

The patient left in the ambulance, stable and conscious.

We have subsequently seen the patient and he has had a full recovery with no long term problems. We have included photos.

13. SKILL & RESOURCES APPLICATION (40%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were the skills used correctly and appropriately as per SOP's?
- Did the rescue/incident require advanced technical skills?
- Was the equipment chosen best for the conditions and skill level of the personnel?
- Was there optimal use of skills within the available personnel? \*

- Noah was selected to perform the board rescue as he was the stronger paddler. Eddy Cavanagh was also utilised as he was a strong swimmer.

- Simon, Ronny and James were experienced lifesavers with advanced resus training and years of experience, they were able to take control of the situation following the rescue.

- We utilised assets and skills across the patrol lifesavers, Sydney branch duty officers and the Waverley council lifeguards. All working together to get the best outcome.

- The equipment (Oxy resuscitation kit/BVM and the Defibrillator) are always ready and checked before patrol. This equipment was brought to location as the rescue was being performed, this ensured quick access when the patient was brought to the sand.

14. PROCEDURES FOLLOWED (30%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were SOP's followed?
- Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?
- Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene mgmt, paperwork, follow-ups, etc?
- Was the equipment utilised appropriately? \*

- The patrol ensured radio communication, risk assessments, first aid and resuscitation were carried out according to the appropriate SLSNSW lifesaving standard operating procedures.

- The Patrol Captain, rescuers and first aid responders had assessed the situation to ensure the safety of our members.

- All equipment was utilised by experienced lifesavers during the resuscitation.

- During the incident the Patrol Captain (Michael Hallam) was working with the Branch Duty officers to manage the situation and ensure appropriate coordination of all assets and continue 2-way communication with SurfCom.

- Following the completion of the incident, paperwork was completed and James McLellan (Duty Officer) did a post-incident debrief and collected names and numbers of all members involved to ensure a follow-up was conducted during the week.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (15%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Was the incident around rocks, cliffs, or other precarious situations?
- What was the size of the surf, temperature, time, visibility, weather, and other environmental conditions at land or sea? \*

- The weather was Sunny, 19 degrees with a slight ENE 5 knot wind  
- The surf was 2 metres at an 11 second period coming from ESE  
- The incident occurred slightly north of the Bondi Beach ramp 4 location, about 50 metres offshore. At the time of the incident there were a number of larger sets coming through.

16. MEDIA CAPTURE/COMMUNICATION (5%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? Please give a brief overview of media exposure. Any additional articles or media releases can be emailed to [ROTMNOMINATION@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:ROTMNOMINATION@surflifesaving.com.au) or please paste url in box below \*

<https://7news.com.au/news/nsw/diver-pulled-from-water-at-popular-sydney-beach-c-8428688>

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/breaking-news/public-holiday-turns-to-nightmare-as-man-pulled-from-surf/news-story/019a463a13bca125a741d8add041b4bf>

<https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/public-holiday-turns-to-nightmare-as-man-pulled-from-surf/news-story/019a463a13bca125a741d8add041b4bf>

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/breaking-news/public-holiday-turns-to-nightmare-as-man-pulled-from-surf/news-story/019a463a13bca125a741d8add041b4bf>

Photos and letter from the patient can be found at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-u8Whc-xxjkB28JetrhRIL2poEFZ0Lcl?usp=sharing>