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***<insert Name>* Surf Life Saving Club**

**Patrol Operations Manual Season xx/xx**

Patrol Operations Manual

# Introduction

< Insert Club Name > Patrol Operations Manual (**POM**) is based on a template developed by SLSNSW and revised 2021 by SLSS and populated with relevant local information for general reference. This document provides Patrol Captains and Patrol Vice Captains with a clear understanding of the requirements of managing patrols at <Inset Beach>.

It is also provided as an external reference document to local Branch officials and SurfCom operators as it contains important local information and key club contacts.

Local hazards/risks and patrol methods relevant to <Insert Beach>, and the surrounding District, are also contained in the POM. These outline the accepted manner of responding to and managing local situations and are important to know.

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# Communication

## Club and Club Officer Details

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Surf Life Saving Club | |  | |
| Club Phone Number | |  | |
| Club Address | |  | |
| Club additional location details | |  | |
| Club website | |  | |
| Clubhouse GPS co-ordinates | |  | |
|  | | | |
| Club Position | Name | Telephone | Email |
| President |  |  |  |
| Deputy President |  |  |  |
| Club Captain |  |  |  |
| Club Vice Captain |  |  |  |
| Lifesaving Director |  |  |  |
| Chief Gear Steward |  |  |  |
| Radio Officer |  |  |  |
| First Aid Officer |  |  |  |
| IRB Captain |  |  |  |
| Chief Training Officer |  |  |  |
| JA Chairperson |  |  |  |
| JA Water Safety Coord. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 1 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 2 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 3 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 4 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 5 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 5 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 6 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 7 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 8 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 9 |  |  |  |
| Patrol Captain 10 |  |  |  |

## Club Callout Teams

Each Club should have an *Emergency Callout Team* that can respond to incidents within the *Emergency Response Area* as outlined in the Lifesaving Service Agreement.

The following members have been nominated to the Club call-out team. All call-out team members should ensure they have access to the club Gear Shed and Patrol Room.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | IRB Driver / Crew | ART | Club Access | Availability | Phone |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Refer to the SLSNSW Call out Standard Operating Procedure LS10.9 for further details and instructions – located at the end of this manual. Refer to the table of contents.

The following equipment should always be available and ready for use in the Gear Shed and / or Patrol Room for access by the call-out team.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Radios and radio bags * Rescue boards * Rescue tubes and fins * IRB – on trailer with a full fuel cell * IRB – spare fuel / spare fuel cells | * PFDs * Oxygen Resuscitator * AED * First Aid Kit * Spinal Board and straps * ATV / SSV (if applicable) |

## Emergency and Support Services

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Service | Radio | Phone | Other |
| *Your* Surf Club |  |  |  |
| *Adjacent* Surf Club | Channel 2 |  |  |
| *Adjacent* Surf Club | Channel 2 |  |  |
| *Adjacent* Surf Club | Channel 2 |  |  |
| *Adjacent* Surf Club | Channel 2 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| SurfCom | Channel 3 | 8471 8092 |  |
| SLSS Support Ski | Channel 3 |  |  |
| SLSS Offshore Rescue – Surf Rescue 30 | Channel 3 | 0408 330 246 |  |
| SLSS Rescue Coordinator | Channel 3 | 0490 087 801 |  |
| SLSS Eastern Suburbs Duty Officer | Channel 3 | 0436 190 051 |  |
| SLSS Sutherland / RNP Duty Officer | Channel 3 | 0429 443 793 |  |
| Lifesaver 21 | Channel 1 | 9694 3100 (base) |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Council Beach Manager |  |  |  |
| Local Council Lifeguards |  |  |  |
| Emergency Services | Channel 3 (via SurfCom) | 000 |  |
| Local Hospital ED |  |  |  |

Complete local details in vacant sports. Add or delete information as appropriate for local setting.

## Club Radio Procedures

### Signing on with SurfCom

1. Priority must first be given to signing on with SurfCom using the Patrol Operations app
2. If successful in signing on to Patrol with the Patrol Operations App, then SurfCom will commence a radio check with each Club, normally from North to South (this will change pending variations in Club start times).
3. If Clubs cannot sign on to Patrol using the Patrol Operations app, they then may sign on via the radio network (Channel 3) with SurfCom directly, with SurfCom to contact each Club.
4. SurfCom will request the following
   1. Beach Status (closed – reason for beach closure)
   2. IRB Status (Operational / Non-operational)
   3. Number of Bronze members
5. All morning Patrols using the Patrol Operations app must ensure that they sign off at the conclusion of their Patrol.

### Change Over

1. First, communicate with the morning Patrol Captain, or Patrol Operations App coordinator and establish if the morning patrol successfully signed off using the Patrol Operations app (if they used it).
   1. Afternoon Patrol will then be able to sign using the Patrol Operations App, repeating steps 1 & 2 above. If the Patrol member operating the app has problems, the opportunity for a ‘manual’ sign on through SurfCom via the radio is still available.
2. If the morning Patrol signed on ‘manually’ with SurfCom, and the afternoon Patrol would like to use the Patrol Operations App, the afternoon Patrol must then radio SurfCom and request the Patrol to be signed off so that the afternoon Patrol can sign on using the app.
3. For afternoon Patrols that cannot sign on with the Patrol operations app, must then complete a manual sign on with SurfCom, repeating:
   1. Beach Status (closed – reason for beach closure)
   2. IRB Status (Operational / Non-operational)
4. Number of Bronze members

### Extension of Patrol Hours

Patrol Captains are to make an informed risk assessment based of Beach patronage levels and weather conditions, in consultation with Lifeguards (where applicable) as to whether an extension of the Patrol hours will take place. If decided in favour of extending the Patrol sign off, the Patrol Captain is to radio SurfCom and advise of how the approximate time at which the new sign off will take place.

### Patrol Sign Off

1. Sign off using the Patrol Operations app. If this doesn’t work you can still request a sign off manually via radio with SurfCom.
2. If you don’t use the Patrol Operations app, sign off manually with SurfCom via radio, reporting the number of rescues

### Radio Channels

Channel 1 – Emergency working channel (line of sight only). Used during major incidents where Duty Officers, RWCs, Helicopters are involved. Note: If there is a major incident, SurfCom or a Duty Officer may ask you to switch to channel 1, from channel 3 if you are responding to that incident.

Channel 2 – Patrol Channel (line of sight only). Used for everyday internal patrol communications (IRB, roving patrols, SSV). Note: RNP Clubs may encounter difficulties whilst using this Channel and may be required if absolutely essential to utilise Channel 3 where required.

Channel 3 – Primary repeater channel. Used for all communications with SurfCom and other SLS assets / Clubs.

Channel 4 – Scan channel, scans both channel 3 and 2 at the same time. Note: If you transmit on channel 4, it will be broadcasted on channel 2 only. Suitable channel for Patrol Captains to use to listen to both channels.

Channel 58, 66, 67, 68 – Training channels. Can be used for ‘chit chat’, training or other non-emergency / operational Patrol requirements.

Notes:

* All radios should include manual repeater-based channels, e.g. ‘BONDI’, ‘CRONULLA’. You should use these channels to improve radio communications if for whatever reason your radio automatically selects a repeater that is out of area. (i.e. You are located at Bondi Beach on Channel 3 and it is scanning showing ‘Cronulla’, you can then switch to Channels 5, 6, 7 etc which display the individual repeaters.

# Hazard / Rick Management

## Hazard / Risk Map- style option 1



**Primary patrol area**

From: Northern pools (G5)

To: 200m south of clubhouse (H9)

**Secondary patrol area**

From: Northern headland (C3)

To: Bondi SBLSC (H11)

## Patrol area map and hazard locations - style option 2

Map

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## Hazard / Risk Management Plan

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard / Risk | Location (Grid Reference) | Management Plan |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |
|  |  | Equipment:  Response: |

# 

# Beach Management

## Minimum Patrol Requirements

Diagram

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## 

## Patrol Types

### Full Patrol

A full patrol must meet all minimum personnel and award requirements to be categorised as a full patrol.

A full patrol shall consist of 3 or more financial and proficient surf lifesavers who hold the following surf lifesaving patrol awards:

* 3 x Bronze (PSAR Cert II) Medallion qualified members \*
* Silver Medallion Beach Management or Silver Medallion Patrol Captain\*
* 1 x Silver Medallion IRB Driver \*
* 1 x IRB Crew (separate to the holder of the IRB Driver award) \*
* 1 x Advanced Resuscitation Techniques \*
* Side by Side Vehicle Operation (if applicable to the club)

### Partial Patrol

A Partial Patrol must meet all minimum personnel and award requirements as outlined below to be categorised as a Partial Patrol.

A Partial Patrol shall consist of proficient surf lifesavers who hold the following surf lifesaving patrol awards:

* 2 x Bronze Medallion (PSAR Cert II) qualified members (older than 17 years of age) and 1 x Surf Rescue qualified member or an additional Bronze (PSAR Cert II) qualified member or
* 1 x Gold Medallion (PSAR Cert III) qualified member and 1 x Bronze Medallion (PSAR Cert II) qualified member
* Silver Medallion Beach Management or Silver Medallion Patrol Captain\*
* Advanced Resuscitation Techniques\*
* Side by Side Vehicle Operation (if applicable to the club)

### low patronage Patrol

A Low Patronage Patrol must meet all minimum personnel and award requirements as outlined below to be categorised as a Low Patronage Patrol.

A Low Patronage Patrol shall consist of at least 2 or more financial and proficient surf lifesavers who hold the following surf lifesaving patrol awards:

* 2 x Bronze Medallion (PSAR Cert II) qualified members (older than 17 years of age)
* Silver Medallion Beach Management or Silver Medallion Patrol Captain\*
* Advanced Resuscitation Techniques\*
* Side by Side Vehicle Operation (if applicable to the club)

### Surveillance/Inclement weather Patrol

A Surveillance or Inclement Weather Patrol must meet all minimum personnel and award requirements as outlined below to be categorised as a surveillance patrol.

Inclement weather is defined as the existence of excessive rain or abnormal climatic conditions (such as hail, snow, cold, high wind, severe dust storm, or any combination of these conditions) where it not reasonable to expect members to deliver a full patrol in those conditions.

A Surveillance or Inclement Weather Patrol shall consist of at least 2 or more financial and proficient surf lifesavers who hold the following surf lifesaving patrol awards:

* 2 x Bronze Medallion (PSAR Cert II) qualified members (older than 17 years of age)
* Side by Side Vehicle Operation (if applicable to the club)

### lifeguard joint Patrol

A Lifeguard Joint Patrol must meet all minimum personnel and award requirements as outlined below to be categorised as a Lifeguard Joint Patrol.

A Lifeguard Joint Patrol may be undertaken where the decision to revert to either a Low Patronage or an Inclement Weather / Surveillance Patrol has been agreed. The difference to a Low Patronage or an Inclement Weather / Surveillance Patrol is that a Council lifeguard service is also patrolling alongside a club during the course of the Lifesaving Service Agreement hours and it is deemed more beneficial to have a Powercraft (IRB) remain on duty.

A Lifeguard Joint Patrol shall consist of at least 2 or more financial and proficient surf lifesavers who hold the following surf lifesaving patrol awards:

* 2 x Bronze Medallion (PSAR Cert II) qualified members (1 x older than 17 years of age)
* 1 x Silver Medallion IRB Driver
* 1 x IRB Crew (separate to the holder of the IRB Driver award)
* Side by Side Vehicle Operation (if applicable to the club)

A decision to adopt any of these patrol types has strict criteria. Refer to the SLSNSW Public Safety Standard Operating Procedures [PSS 3.3 Club Patrol Operations](https://www.manula.com/manuals/slsnsw/pssops/jul.2023/en/topic/pss-3-3-club-patrol-operations) for further details.

The Flexible Patrolling Option Matrix on the following page provides a useful guide. When in doubt consult with your Club Captain/Club Director of Lifesaving.

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## Beach Management Roles

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Radio Ch** | **Call Sign** | **Patrol Method / Details** |
| Patrol Tent (Command Post) | Ch 2 & 3 | *"Coogee Patrol"* | Patrol Command Post Patrol Captain Location Key Equipment Location Elevated Scanning / surveillance position 1 Lifesaver watching flags 1 lifesaver scanning unpatrolled areas with binoculars |
| Flag Duty | Ch 2 | *Bondi (Southern / Northern Flag)* | Lifesaver at flags when conditions warrant outpost Standing or sitting - constant surveillance with tube, radio bum bag and whistle rotating out every 20-30 mins |
| Outpost | Ch 2 | *Wanda (Northern / Southern Outpost)* | Lifesavers positioned on the beach adjacent to <insert landmark> Minimum of 2 lifesavers (as practical) Radio, Tube, Bum Bag & Whistle |
| Roving Patrol | Ch 2 | *Garie Northern / Southern Rove* | Minimum of 2 Lifesavers (where practical) Radio, Bum bag, Tube and Whistle |
| IRB Patrol | Ch 2/3 | *Cronulla IRB* | Roving IRB patrols as required. 2 full patrols per patrol Qualified Driver & Crew (with radio) Patrol Life Jackets and wetsuits to be worn |
| In-water Patrol | n/a | *n/a* | Swimmers wearing patrol cap with rescue tube Paddlers on Rescue Board + patrol cap |
| Offline / On-break Lifesavers | n/a | *n/a* | On Lunch rotation / break Must have advised PC and have clear return time Must remove patrol uniform if leaving beach or undertaking non-SLS activities |
| **Branch & External Services** | | | |
| SurfCom | Ch 3 | *SurfCom* | Online during all patrol hours |
| Helicopters | Ch 1 | *Lifesaver 21 Polair: Polair 1 Ambulance: Rescue 22* | If responding to an emergency where Helicopters are involved confirm with SurfCom on Ch3 that working channel is Ch1 (and then switch). If a Helicopter is circling off the beach switch to CH1 to check for any communication |
| SLS RWC | Ch 3 | *Support Ski (3)* | Branch RWC's conduct roving patrols along the coast and can assist in an emergency |
| Duty Officer (DO) | Ch 3 | *Eastern Beaches 10*  *Eastern Beaches 11*  *Sutherland 10*  *Sutherland 11* | Branch Duty Officers provide roving support to patrols and can be requested via SurfCom |
| Offshore Rescue Boat | Ch 3 | *SR30* | The Offshore Rescue Boat provides inter-beach support and offshore roving capabilities. Typically contact via SurfCom unless on Duty on the local beach vicinity |

## Daily Patrol Procedures

### Pre-Patrol Procedure

* All members to contact their patrol captain at least 48hrs prior to patrol to advise of any attendance issues
* Patrol Captains to contact all members (direct contact) at least 3 days prior to patrol to confirm attendance
* Minimum patrol requirements must be met (section 4.3). If issues are identified, PC’s are to contact the Club Captain
* If issues are not resolved, the Club Captain shall notify the Branch Director of Lifesaving prior to the weekend.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Start of Patrol | End of Patrol |
| 1. All members arrive at least 15mins prior to start 2. Minimum standards assessed (numbers / quals) 3. Introductions with on-duty Council Lifeguard 4. Equipment should be checked and set up for patrol (including Oxygen stores and AED self-test) 5. Patrolled area location should be determined 6. Fuel stocks should be checked 7. Paperwork / Operations app checked / completed 8. A Patrol briefing should take place discussing:  * roles / responsibilities * Scanning and surveillance * Carrying tubes / radios on the beach * Radios / Channels (callsigns) * Rotation roster * Uniform standards * Particular hazards / risks * Rules around leaving the Patrol * Use of the SSV * Equipment issues * Activities and training / scenarios for the day | 1. Scanning / Surveillance maintained by at least 1 Lifesaving during ‘pack-up’. 2. Rescue equipment still available during ‘pack-up’ 3. Paperwork/App updates fully completed 4. Sign-off and appropriate information provided to SurfCom 5. All equipment cleaned and appropriately stored 6. Radios placed on charge 7. Outboard ‘flushed’ 8. SSV hosed thoroughly 9. IRB and SSV stored ‘Rescue Ready’ for after-hours callouts 10. Any supply requirements or equipment damage / failures reported (same day) to the appropriate club officer 11. A ‘Patrol Debrief) should be conducted with all Patrol members, discussing  * Rescues / incidents * Any questions from members * Training options / desires * Upcoming events / opportunities * Next Patrol date |

## Nippers / Water Safety

Nipper in-water activities (including education and surf sports training) are to adhere to the SLSA Water Safety Policy (***SLSA Policy 1.01***) at all times. Nipper in-water activities are to only be conducted in the immediate vicinity of the active patrolled area.

Nipper in-water activities cannot be undertaken on a closed beach.

The Patrol Captain has internal 'control' of all lifesaving activities on the beach including Nipper activities. The appointed Water Safety Coordinator has delegated 'command' of water safety requirements for Nipper activities.

For Nipper in-water activities:

* The Patrol Captain and Water Safety Coordinator should conduct a risk assessment in consultation with other local Lifeguard services, as required, and agree for Nipper activities to take place
* The Patrol Captain must maintain oversight of the activity
* The Water Safety Coordinator must supervise the activity to ensure compliance with the SLSA Water Safety Policy, maintain radio contact with the Patrol and report to the Patrol Captain as required
* The Water Safety Coordinator must ensure a fully provisioned Missing Persons Kit (the blue Search equipment box issued by SLSS) is positioned in the immediate vicinity of the activity and be accessible to the Patrol and water safety
* the Water Safety Coordinator must maintain sufficient water safety (minimum 1 water safety for every 5 participants). Water safety resources should be in addition to the patrol and must not detract from the minimum patrol requirements. If insufficient water safety is available, Patrol activities shall take precedence and the Nipper activities must be halted, until sufficient water safety is available.
* An IRB must be available for water safety. This may be the patrol IRB or a separately provisioned IRB. The IRB should be on the water, rather than stationary on the beach.

Patrol Captain’s should be generally aware that only persons holding a current NSW Working With Children Check (typically Age Managers, Water Safety and delegated club officers) may be in control of or contact with Nippers and other members under 18 years of age during SLSA activities.

To build skills and maintain SAR coordination <insert your club> conducts a search and rescue drill each season prior to 31 December, supervised by an appointed Branch Officer (refer to <reference to your calendar>).

**Key References**

* SLSA Policy 1.01
* SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01
* LS3.11 Nipper activities & patrols
* LS3.2 Lifesaving service requirements (minimum) - note SLSS minimum of 5 patrolling members

## Club Rules

* Full Patrol uniform must always be worn
* At least one Patrol member is to be always watching the water
* At least one Patrol member should always be monitoring the radio, Channel 2 and 3.
* The Patrol Captain is to always be made aware of Patrol member location / activities.
* At least one Patrol member at the waters edge with a rescue tube and whistle (when there are swimmers in the water).
* Rescue tubes to be carried or immediately available to Patrol members when on the Beach
* Rescue tubes should not be tied to flag poles
* Members should not text, sunbathe or engage in any unprofessional behaviour (in uniform) in public view
* Only qualified IRB drivers and crew are to operate the IRB
* Only licenced drivers are to operate the SSV
* The SSV should always be left facing the water and is to always be operated at a low speed
* No passengers are allowed in the tray of the SSV
* The Club Captain or relevant officer should be notified immediately of any equipment damage / issues
* Patrols are to adhere to full start and end of patrol procedures
* All paperwork or the operations app is to be completed for each Patrol

## Local Government Rules

* <Insert Beach> Beach and surrounding reserves are smoke and alcohol-free zones
* <Insert Club> SLSC patrolling members can advise the public of this, but are not required to enforce the law
* If there are potential alcohol related issues on the beach, contact local Council Lifeguards and Police

# Emergency Operations Plans

## Emergency Beach Closure

Patrol Captains should consider the ‘closure’ of a beach at any time that there is an unacceptable / unmanageable risk to the public of the lifesaving service is unable to safely perform water safety tasks. For a detailed procedure, refer to Standard Operating Procedure LS 9.1 Emergency Beach Closure.

Examples include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Dangerous Surf Conditions * Sharks * Excessive Stingers * Chemical / fuel spill | * Powercraft hazards * Lightning * Tsunami / flood warning * Storm pollution |

## Shark Sighting Procedure

1. Determine if water area is to be evacuated
2. Inform SurfCom that you are about to close the patrolled area
3. Activate the ‘Emergency Evacuation Alarm’
4. Inform every one of the following

* Water area is being closed; and
* Reason for closure

1. Lower and remove the red and yellow Patrol flags and black / white surfcraft flags
2. Post ‘Swimming not advised’ signs at identified beach access points and where the flagged areas was located
3. Continually monitor all areas
4. Maintain minimum personnel, qualification, and equipment requirements
5. Maintain an active presence on the beach to advise / warn public
6. An appropriate record should be made in the patrol log giving an outline of the incident

## Closure Periods

Generally, the beach will remain closed until such time as identified hazard is controlled or no longer presents a risk,

Recommended closure periods include:

* Dangerous Surf Conditions – as determined / appropriate
* Shark – minimum 30 minutes from last confirmed sighting (or completion of search)
* Chemical / biological hazards – after communication from authorities that the area is safe

## Tsunami Plan

Surf Life Saving NSW is recognised under the State EMPLAN as a *support agency* in a Tsunami event broadly, our role includes:

* Close and evacuate beaches on receipt of a NSW Tsunami Warning or upon observation of unusual ocean behaviour indicative of a tsunami, in consultation with Local Government and / or SurfCom
* Assist with the rescue of people from the surf zone following the impact of a tsunami
* Notify the SES via SurfCom when unusual ocean behaviour indicative of a tsunami is observed or a tsunami has occurred for which there has been no prior warning.

For a detailed procedure, refer to Standard Operating Procedure LS 9.12 Tsunami Warning and the SLSNSW Tsunami Plan.

There are two types of tsunami threats:

1. Marine threat – may influence currents / rips / water energy and immediate foreshore
2. Land threat – may impact coastal area, inlets and inland inundation (rare event, but significant impact)

The SES is the *lead agency* for tsunami response and will advise Surf Life Saving of a tsunami warning through the State Duty Officer, who will co-ordinate the SLS response. Due to the location of *fault line*’ (starting points of tsunami’s a warning should precede the tsunami impact by a number of hours.

Essential patrol and rescue equipment, including an IRB on a trailer should be transported to higher ground in the event of a tsunami warning being issued.

## Coastal Flooding Plan

SLSNSW is recognised under the State EMPLAN as a *support agency* in a coastal flooding event. Broadly, our role includes:

* Assist the SES with the warning and / or evacuation of at risk communities
* Provide space in SLS facilities for evacuation centres where required
* Assist the SES with flood rescue operations

For a detailed procedure, refer to Standard Operating Procedure LS 9.11 Coastal Flooding. Each SLS Club has an obligation to be prepared and respond in line with a land threat tsunami warning.

Sydney Branch surf lifesaving clubs are not likely to be affected by either *flash flooding* or *storm surge* flooding. Storm surge flooding will generally coincide with high tides and is easier to predict and prepare for. Flash flooding is unpredictable and occurs in a short period of time, occasionally a storm warning may be issued prior to the flooding event.

In the event there is localised flooding, SES is the *combat agency*. Surf Life Saving as a support agency must only assist when requested by the SES with all SLS assets and members being tasked and direct by SLSNSW.

## Bushfire Emergency Plan (RNP)

SLSNSW is recognised under the State EMPLAN as a *support agency* in a Bushfire event. Broadly, our roles includes:

* Assist the RFS with the warning and / or evacuation of at-risk communities
* Provide space in SLS facilities for evacuation centres where required
* Assist the RFS by communicating information on numbers of persons and safety of the public

In the event of a bushfire, the RFS is the combat agency. National Parks and Wildlife Services is the land manager and SLS is a support agency which must only assist when request by the RFS.

**Garie Beach** – Has road access

**Era / Burning Palms Beach** – Patrol activities can be impacted by a number of different scenarios. The NSW RFS is responsible for the fire danger warnings and ratings. NPWS also have documented emergency management plans such as the Garrawarra Farm EMP and the Garie precinct EMP. These plans include the NPWS triggers for evacuations and assembly areas for visitors, cabin personnel and other community members.

**NPWS Preparedness Procedures (fire danger):**

* The Total Fire Ban (TOBAN) status triggers the closure of tracks and trails, so that all visitors, contractors, and non-fire trained staff are out of enclosed bushland and near safe open refuge area.
* Only the fire danger index (FDI) rating of *catastrophic* triggers the closure of visitor precincts, otherwise they may remain open for visitors as refuge areas.
* During large fire operations, or a fire threat to visitor areas, the park may be closed and evacuation / stay procedures implemented

In the event of an emergency situation the means of communication are radio through SurfCom, mobile phone and satellite phone.

## Emergency Rally Point

Map

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## Helicopter Landing Zone

During major incidents, rescue helicopters may be required to land on the beach or near the beach to assist treating the patient and possibly transporting the patient to hospital. Ultimately, the decision of where to land is made by the pilot of the aircraft based on weather conditions, the nature of the incident and surrounding hazards. Patrol Captains can prepare and suggest a landing zone using local knowledge prior to a helicopter arriving.

Things to consider when establishing a helicopter landing zone:

* 40m x 40m area (minimum)
* Flat and cleared of hazards (loose objects, power lines, trees etc)
* Helicopter will approach the landing zone against the wind
* At night the landing zone should be expanded

Helicopter Landing Zone procedure:

* Nominate a suitable lifesaver as ‘landing zone controller’ and provide a radio
* ‘Landing zone controller’ briefs lifesavers on pre-landing and post-landing procedures
* Landing zone cleared of hazards, vehicles and people
* Landing zone established and marked with cones
* Establish contact with helicopter on Channel 1 prior to landing and confirm suitability of the landing zone
* Helicopter lands, lifesavers ensure perimeter is maintained until helicopter departs
* Do not approach the helicopter and await instructions from the helicopter crew (only approach the helicopter from the front once given all clear).

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# Standard Operating Procedures

For detailed information on Lifesaving procedures and policies, refer to the Standard Operating Procedures on the SLSNSW website. <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/lifesaving-sops>