



HARBOUR COMMISSION MINUTES

**Thursday, July 24, 2025
Meeting Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

**KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Chair
CHRIS NIELSEN, Vice Chair
WILLIAM LARKIN, Board Member
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member
VAN VU, Board Member
MEL WILLIAMS, Board Member
DIANE WOOD, Board Member**

COUNCIL LIAISONS
**PAT BURNS, Councilmember Liaison
GRACEY VAN DER MARK, Councilwoman Liaison**

STAFF
**ERIC MCCOY, Fire Chief
ERIC DIETERMAN, Marine Safety Division Chief
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Management Analyst**

CALLED TO ORDER

Milligan called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Villa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams, Wood

Commissioner Absent: Larkin, Vu

Staff Present: Justen, Peters, McDonald, Simon, West, Villa

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were two public comments: Amory Hanson reiterated his support for *Municipal Code Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44* as is and Michael VanVoorhis expressed concern about kayak and stand up paddleboard rental company unauthorized use of City beaches, recommending that the 12th Street Lifeguards be assigned tally rental company usage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 26, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Williams to approve the June 26, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

PRESENTATION

1. *History and Overview of Fire Department Marine Safety Division*

McDonald, Peters and Simon presented an overview of the history and operations of the Marine Safety Division. The PowerPoint presentation (attached) was also provided as a handout to Commissioners.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. *Harbour Commission Designation of Ad Hoc Committees*

Commissioners decided upon the following Ad Hoc Committees, with these members:

- 1) Water Quality (Nielsen, Schauppner, Wood) – This committee will look at water quality issues and initiatives
- 2) Infrastructure (Larkin, Williams, Vu) – This committee will look at Harbour infrastructure, including bridge repair, lift stations, bulkheads and related financing issues
- 3) Vessels and Watercraft (Milligan, Williams, Vu) – This committee will develop recommendations related to enhanced code enforcement, compliance with existing laws and increased safety

Each ad hoc committee will have a term of six (6) months.

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Nielsen to approve the establishment of these ad hoc committees with these members for a six (6) month term.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS*1. Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee*

There was no committee report.

2. Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee

There was no committee report.

3. Policy Ad Hoc Committee

There was no committee report.

STAFF COMMENTS

West introduced Villa, who will be taking his place in February 2026. Justen said that he inquired of the Police Department about a tour of their new crime center, which the Commission requested. They said that it will not be operational for several months but offered a combination tour of the new communications center and crime center. Commissioners expressed interest and Justen will be setting up two (2) tours. He also reported that Captain O'Brien, Commander of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, said that she was honored and grateful that the Commission recommended her for the Mayor's Spotlight Award but, unfortunately, she had to report for her new duty assignment in San Diego on July 18th and the Award ceremony was July 22nd, so she could not attend to receive the award.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Milligan reported that she attended the change of command ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, along with Schauppner and Burns. Schauppner said that the new Commander, Captain Caldwell, is very impressive and worked his way up through Navy ranks. Wood said that she is excited about the City Council multitrophic aquaculture initiative. Nielsen, Wood and Williams complimented Marine Safety staff on their presentation. Williams also welcomed Villa and said that he looks forward to working with him.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Williams, at 6:32 p.m. to adjourn to the August 28, 2025, meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be on August 28, 2025, at a time and location to be announced.

HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT Marine Safety Division

History and Philosophy



Huntington Beach Fire Department

Marine Safety Division

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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

1.0

Mission Statement



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“The Huntington Beach Fire Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality fire, marine safety and emergency medical services to protect our community.”



Section

2.0

MSD History



Marine Safety Begins

1904 – 1917:

- City was required by state law to place a dory on the beach.

1918:

- First lifeguards assigned to the city's beachfront.

1931:

- City hires first full-time lifeguards.

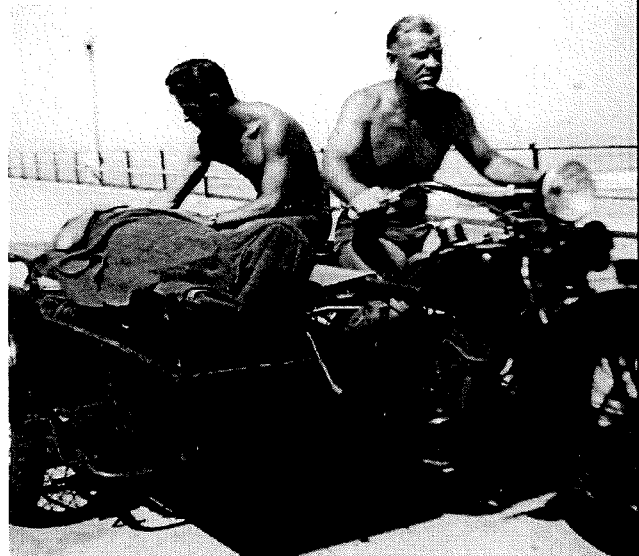


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Marine Safety Begins

1932-1938:

- Wrote training and general orders manuals.
- Incorporated radio and telephone systems.
- Used four-wheel drive pickups trucks and paddleboards (replacing dories).
- Created perimeter defense concept; towers located along the beachfront in strategic positions.



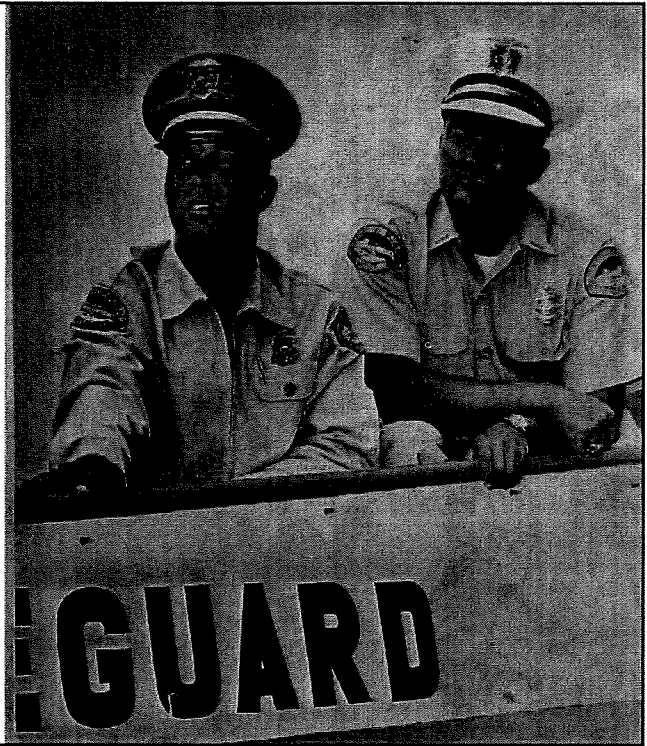
1939: "Bud" Higgins and Don Winters

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Population Explosion

1958-1966:

- Permanent lifeguard staff increase from 2 to 13; seasonal staff from 32 to 72.
- Lifeguards deputized, employment standards upgraded, public relations programs improved.
- County's first underwater rescue team incorporated.
- Helicopters used for observation of critical surf areas.
- In 1962 the first Lifeguard Training Class was established.



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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

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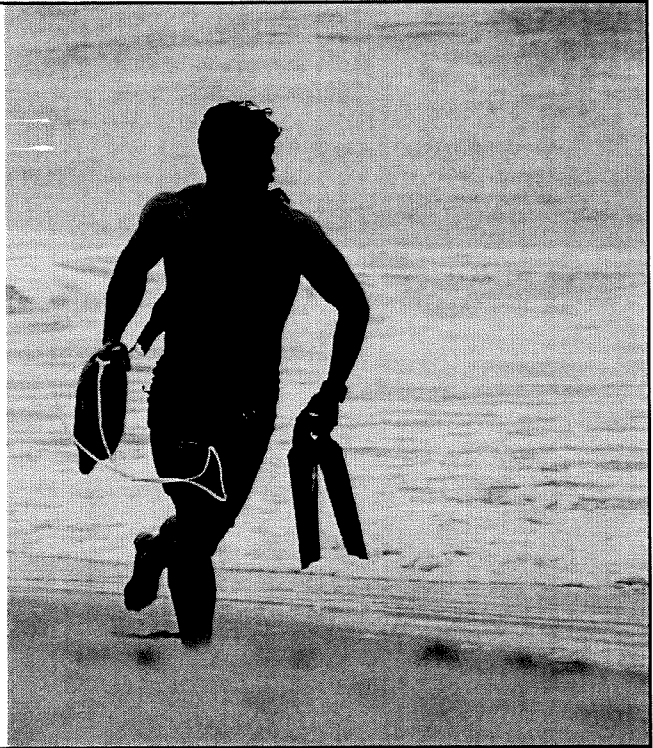
Role as a Lifeguard



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Role as a Lifeguard

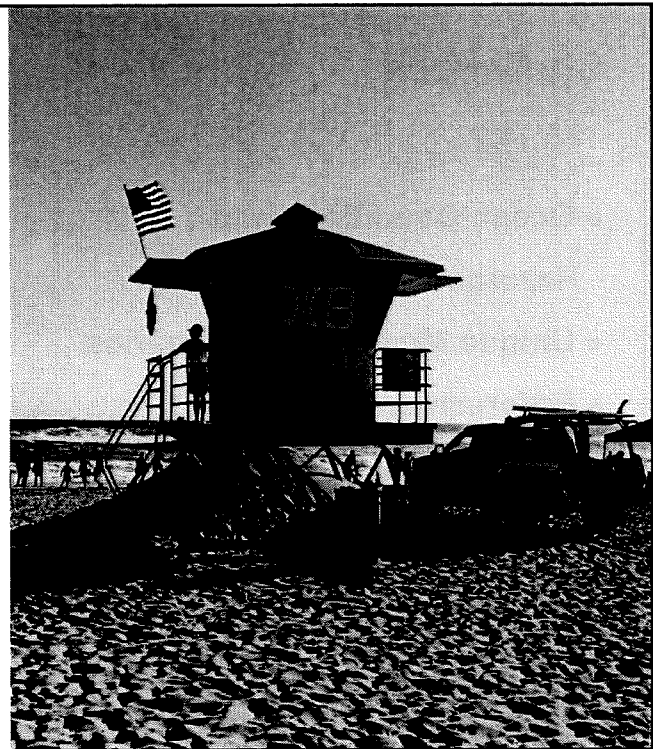
- Protect life, limb and property of the beach-going public
- Prevent accidents through anticipation and communication
- Keep people safe at the beach



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Role as a Lifeguard

- Rescue
- Preventative Action
- First Aid
- Law Enforcement
- Public Relations
- Lost Children



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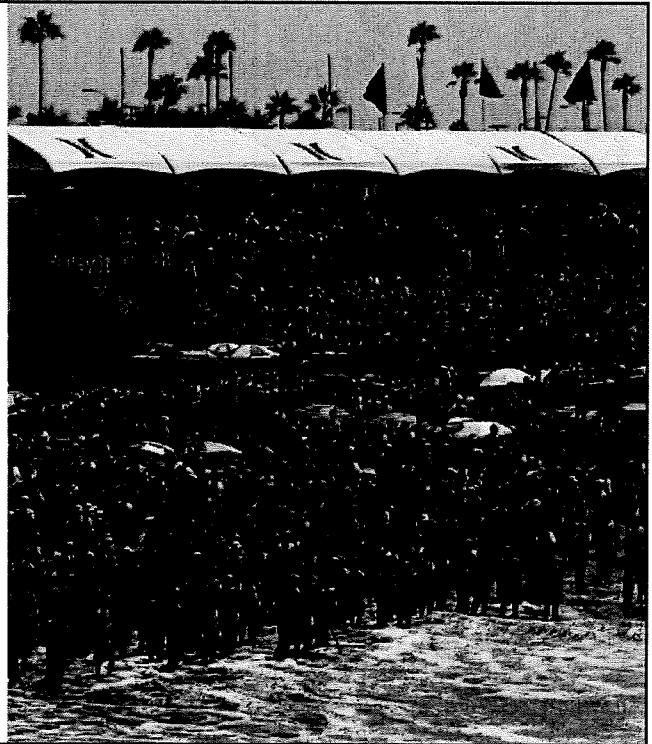
Public Safety Team - EMS System



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Challenges

- Ocean Conditions and Hazards
- Unique Medical Aid Scenarios
- Enforcement
- Visitor Attendance and Density
- Year Round Destination
- High Profile Location



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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

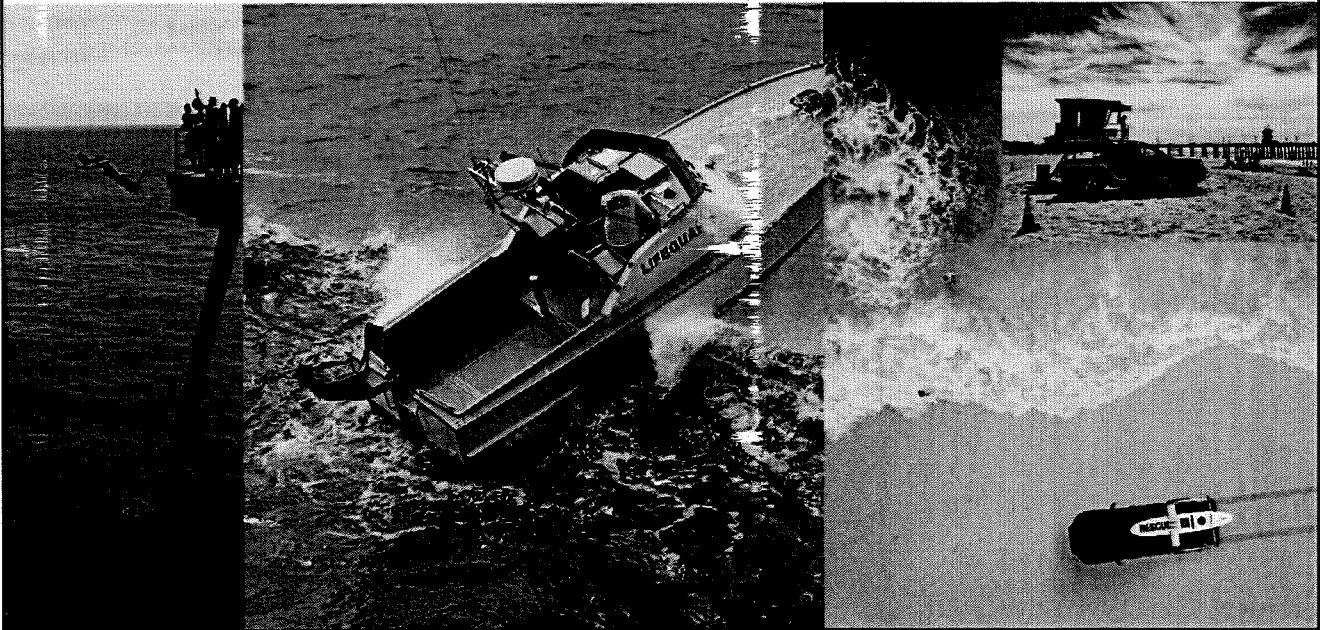
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Capabilities & Response Types



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Capabilities and Response Types - Ocean Rescues + Preventative Actions



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Capabilities and Response Types - Dive Team



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Capabilities and Response Types - Offshore Rescue



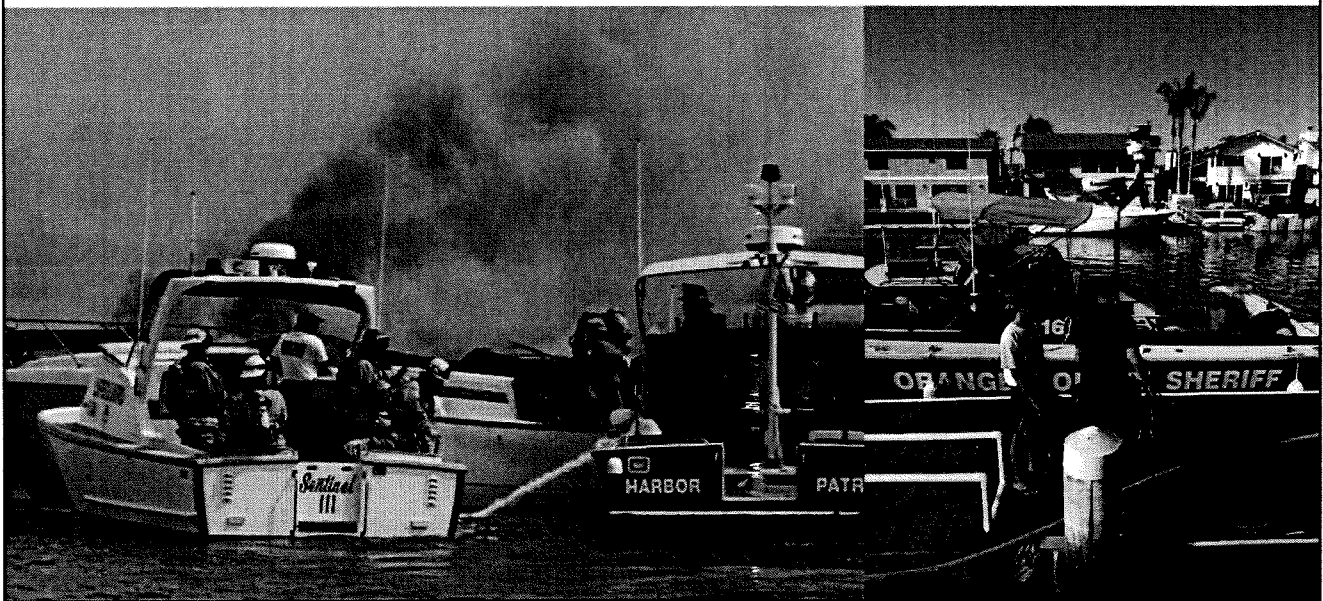
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Capabilities and Response Types - Swiftwater (Water Entry)



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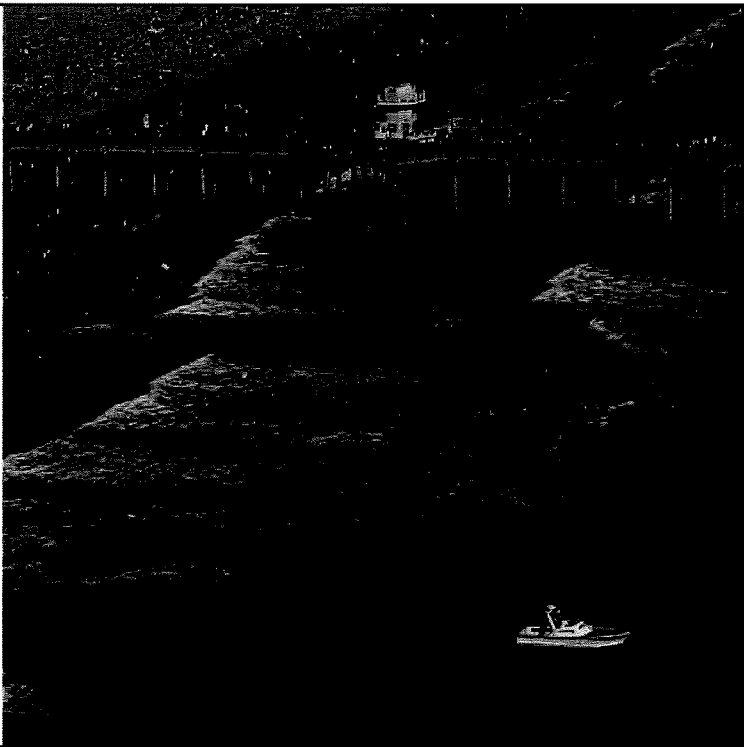
Capabilities and Response Types - Water RIC



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Marine Safety Today

- Our Operation
- Capabilities And Response Types
- Specialized Training
- Public Education Programs



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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

5.0

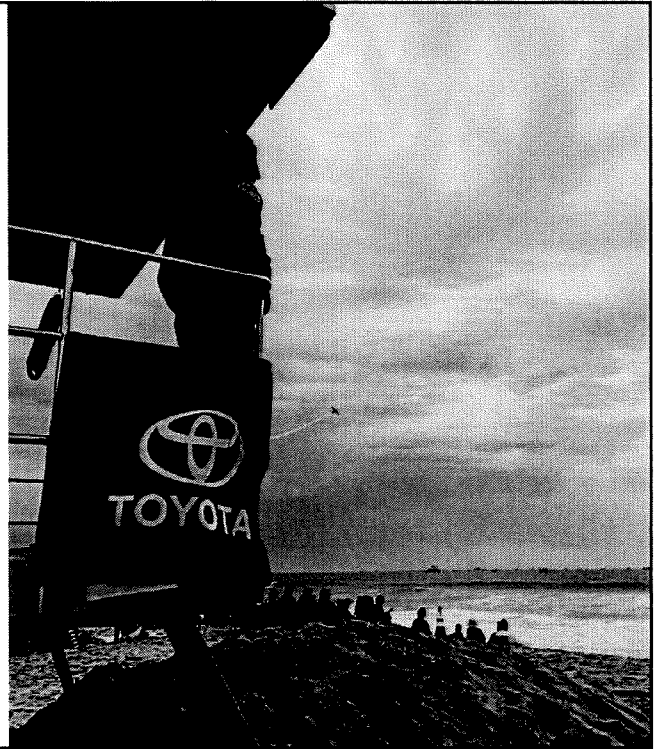
Operational Philosophy



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Operational Philosophy

- 1.Prevention
- 2.Anticipation
- 3.Communication



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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

6.0

Jurisdiction Statistics



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Attendance 15,000,000+

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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

7.0

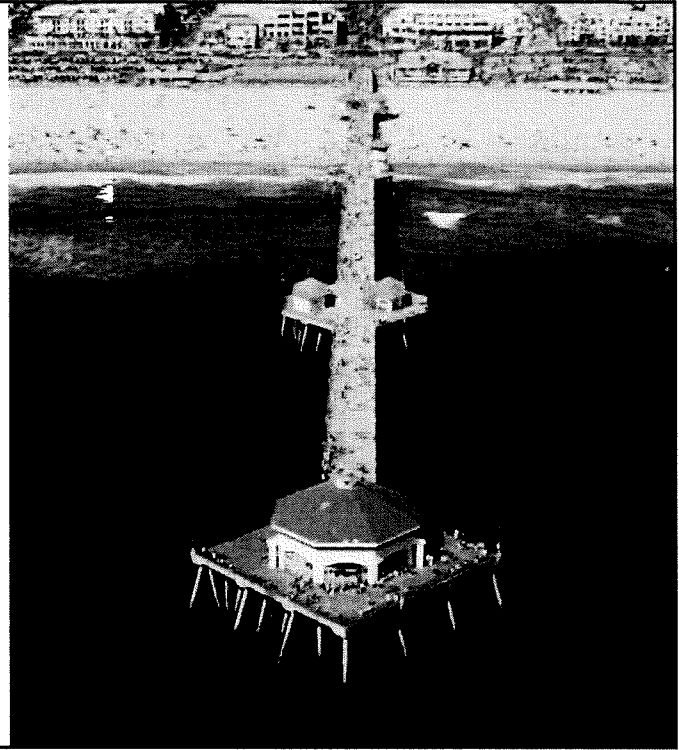
Organization Overview



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Organization Overview

- Fire Chief - 1
- Deputy Chief - 2
 - Operations
 - Professional Standards & CRR
- Division Chief - 3
 - Operations
 - Marine Safety
 - Promotional Standards
- Marine Safety Battalion Chiefs - 3
- Marine Safety Captains - 12
- Marine Safety Specialists - 4
- Recurrent Ocean Lifeguards (OL, SOL, Supervising OL) - 210
 - JGI



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Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division

Section

8.0

Facilities + Units



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Facilities and Equipment Inventories

Facilities:

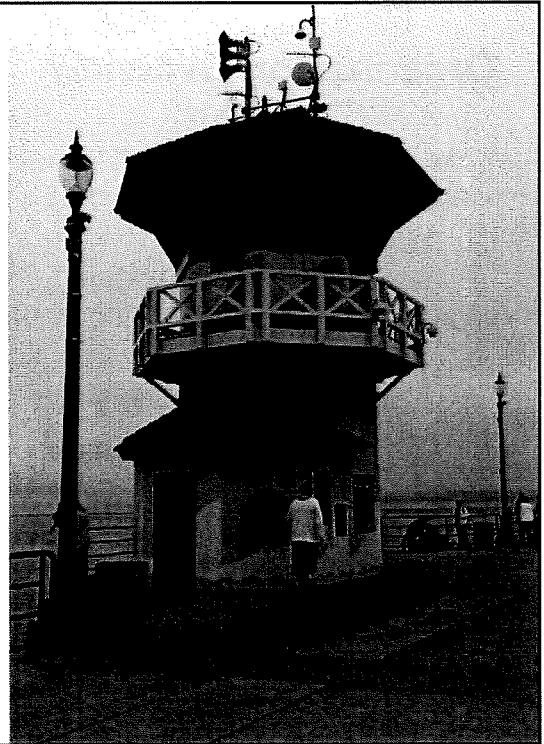
- MSD Headquarters
- Marine Safety Educational/Training Center
(Home of the Junior Guards)
- Marine Safety Rescue Vessel Operations
(Warner Fire Station)
- Lifeguard Tower 0
- Beach Tower Stations

Land Units:

- Toyota 4x4 Emergency Vehicles
- Honda ATV's

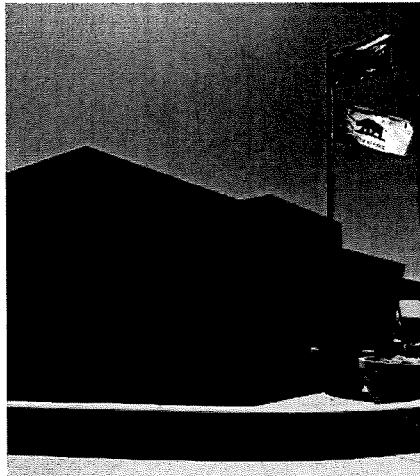
Aquatic Units:

- 29' Crystaliner Surf Rescue Vessels (3)
- Rescue Water Craft (RWC's)



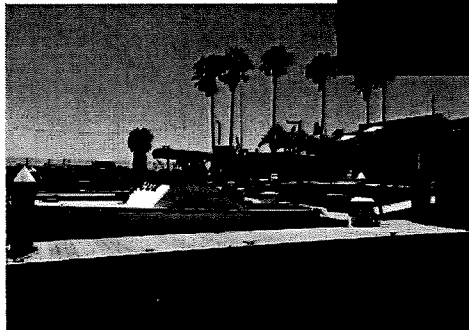
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Facilities and Equipment Inventories



Vincent G. Moorehouse. Lifeguard Headquarters
103 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**Marine Safety Education/Training Center
(Home of the Junior Guards)**
21073 Pacific Coast Highway



**Marine Safety Rescue Vessel Dock
Warner Fire Station #7**

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Tower Stations



Max Bowman Lifeguard Tower 0

- **35 Lifeguard Towers Total**
- **24 Division 1+2 (Main Beach)**
- **6 Sunset Beach (Division 3)**
 - 4th, 8th, 12th, 17th, 22nd, 26th
- **6 Division 4 (Harbor Beaches)**
 - x2 at Seabridge (Mothers Beach)
 - Davenport
 - Trinidad
 - Humboldt
 - 11th St. Beach (Rental Beach)

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Huntington Beach Pier

- **Base of Pier**
- **Kite Shop**
- **Tower 0**
- **Baithouse**
- **End of Pier (EOP)**



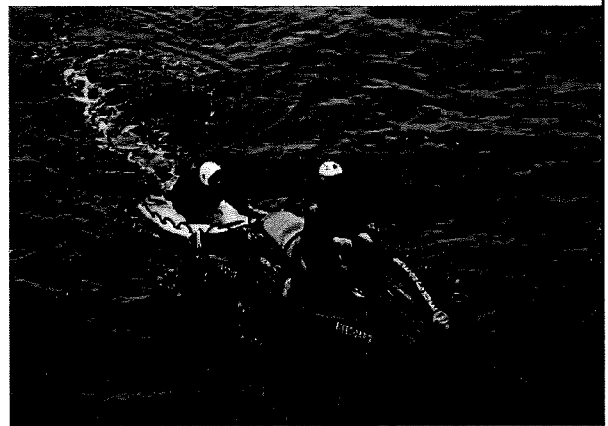
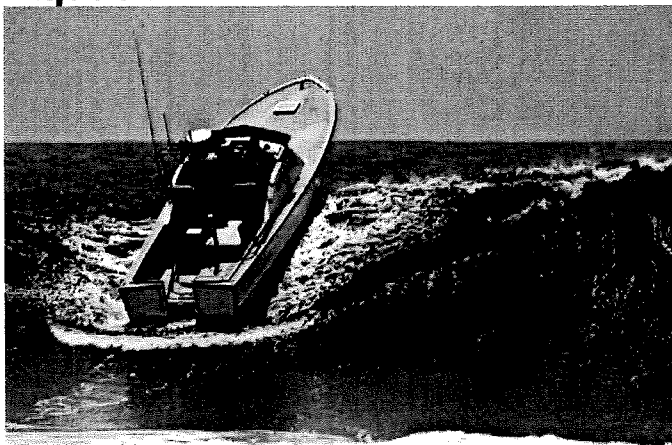
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Emergency Reponse - Patrol Units

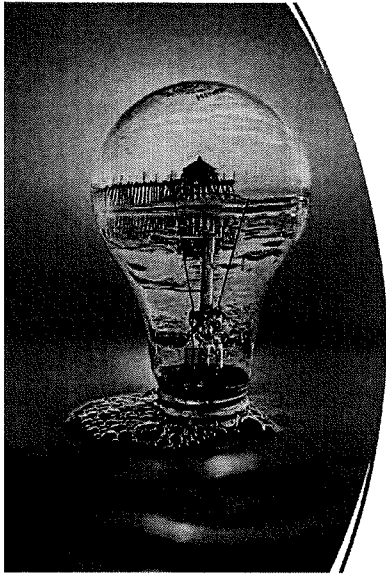


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Aquatic Units



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Questions?

