

Press Kit: News Release & PSAs-1
Okaloosa County News Release
6/6/2007

Contact: Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us
PR07-123

**Beach Flag Warnings, Surf Conditions & Lifeguard
Information Available on Beach Safety Web Page**
Junior Lifeguard Program Scheduled for June

The Okaloosa County Beach Safety units want you to have fun and be safe this summer. Units patrol public beaches daily and lifeguards are on duty now through mid-October. If you would like to check for weather, flag warnings and surf conditions, simply go online to the Okaloosa County web site, www.co.okaloosa.fl.us, select Public Safety icon, and select Beach Safety.

Also on the Beach Safety web page, is information on boating safety, public beaches and the Junior Lifeguard Program information. The Junior Lifeguard Program is now accepting enrollment. Call Beach Safety at 850-651-7150 as soon as possible, as Junior Lifeguard Sessions begin this month.

The Beach Safety Division of Public Safety added equipment and other improvements for the 2007 season, which include:

- Two lifeguard observation towers
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices to patrol units for managing drowning symptoms, including respiratory failure
- Upgraded personal watercraft program and training.

In 2006, Beach Safety found 56 lost children, made 62 rescues and had no drowning fatalities. They also participate in public education outreach programs all year.

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Public Safety officials remind beachgoers to always observe the county's beach flag warning system which consists of a green flag indicating safe swimming conditions, yellow flag for medium hazard, red flag for high hazard and purple flag indicating the presence of marine pests. A double red flag flying along public beaches signify that the waters are closed. Officials also recommend to swim in areas with lifeguards on duty and to always utilize caution when in the water.

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PSAs: Beach Safety

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Our sugar-white beaches and emerald green waters are one of nature's gifts and we encourage everyone to enjoy them safely. Inexperienced and young swimmers should swim in public beaches, where a lifeguard is present. Please be observant of the Warning Flags placed along public beaches and make wise decisions when entering the water. A Green flag mean calm conditions, yellow flag means a moderate surf, red flag means strong, hazardous currents, and purple flags indicate marine pests such as jellyfish, may be present. If a double red flag is flying, the water is off limits. The Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety reminds everyone to have fun, be careful, and ask the lifeguard for assistance. Weather and flag conditions, a list of public beaches with lifeguards and many helpful hints can be accessed on our web site at www.co.okaloosa.fl.us.

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Enjoy the world's most beautiful beaches safely. Observe the Warning Flags placed along public beaches and make wise decisions when swimming. Green flags mean calm conditions, yellow flags means a moderate surf, red flag means strong, hazardous currents, and purple flags indicate marine pests are present. If a double red flag is flying, the water is off limits. The Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety reminds everyone to use caution and to be safe.

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Be safe at the beach! Pay attention to Warning Flags. Green flags mean calm conditions, yellow means moderate surf, red means strong currents. If a double red flag is flying, the water is off limits.