

# Okaloosa County News Release

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## **Beach Safety is the Topic on “Focus on Okaloosa” Thursday *Beach Safety Week is May 19-26***

This month’s “Focus on Okaloosa,” airing Thursday, May 22, will highlight Beach Safety Week, May 19 through 26, 2008. Tune into Cox Communications, Channel 6, at 5:30 p.m., to see Beach Division Chief Tracey Vause and Lifeguard Supervisor Rich Huffnagle discussing beach safety, and the Junior Lifeguard Program.

Okaloosa County Beach Safety, a division of the Public Safety Department, has received certification as an Open Water Lifesaving Agency from the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). This is a two-year-long process of developing an organization to reach the accreditation level through physical fitness training, equipment requirements and a technical evaluation of the level of medical care.

Lifeguards and Beach Safety Teams experience training throughout the year to maintain their qualifications and prepare them for the summer season. Please be observant of the warning flags placed along public beaches. Green flags indicate favorable swimming conditions, yellow flags- medium hazard, red flags- high hazard, and purple flags indicate marine pets are present. If a double red flag is flying, the water is closed. Choose to make wise choices and to be safe this summer. For more information, contact Beach Safety, 850-651-7150.

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### ***Beach Safety Week is May 19-26***

- **May 24 – 10 AM-4 PM** – Okaloosa County Beach Safety Open House – Safety & equipment demonstrations, lifeguard demonstrations, kayaking, games, pizza, & fun for all ages!
- Register for the **Junior Lifeguard program** tryouts!
- **Shadow a lifeguard** for a day!