

# Emergency Response System (13SURF)

## UPDATE

Spring 2011



### SOCIAL MEDIA



The official Surf Life Saving NSW Facebook page and Twitter accounts are live. As well as acting as a communication tool for our members, Social Media will also prove effective in the event of communicating important real time dangerous surf & tsunami information. Please follow us.

 [Facebook.com/surflifesavingnsw](https://www.facebook.com/surflifesavingnsw)

 [@slsnsw](https://twitter.com/slsnsw)

### BEACHSAFE.ORG.AU



The 2011/2012 SLS patrol season began on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 and finishes on Anzac Day, 2012. For all beach patrol locations, dates/times and safety information please visit the site. Emergency Services and Government departments are encouraged to provide links to Beachsafe on their websites and Media Releases.

[www.beachsafe.org.au](http://www.beachsafe.org.au) or download the free iPhone app.

## 741 INCIDENTS THROUGH 13SURF

741 incidents (including 401 rescues) were tasked through 13SURF since January 2008. Below is a snapshot of some recent jobs.

### 8 SEPTEMBER 2011

Two people are caught in a rip at Cudgen Headland, Kingscliff. As the beach is unpatrolled on this date, a 13SURF call from Police sees the State Duty Officer task the Australian Lifeguard Service at the nearby Salt Resort and Branch Duty Officers from the Far North Coast Branch. The Salt Lifeguards respond on the Rescue Water Craft (Jetski) and recover the two people and return them safely to shore.

### 11 SEPTEMBER 2011

Two people are caught in a rip at Tallow's Beach, Byron Bay during the patrol off-season. A 13SURF call from Police sees the State Duty Officer task SLS callout members from Byron Bay. One person is rescued by the RWC (Jetski) while the other patient (further around the rocks) is retrieved by the Lismore Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Both patients make a full recovery.

### 18 SEPTEMBER 2011

A family of four are on a boat off Little Bay, Sydney. While the father is diving, a southerly front hits resulting in the anchor coming loose. No one on board can drive the vessel and the boat is being pushed towards the rocks by the winds and swells. The family abandoned the boat and are swept onto rocks. A 13SURF call from Police sees the State Duty Officer task the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter, Randwick Council Lifeguards, Branch Duty Officers and the Randwick Offshore Rescue Boat. Resources worked well together to recover the three patients who were then assisted by Ambulance. The fourth person (the diver) was retrieved by the Offshore Rescue Boat.



Photo: Notorious Tallow's Beach (Byron Bay)

# DROWNING TOLL

Since 1 July 2011, twelve persons have drowned on the NSW coastline. This is eight more deaths than the same period last year.

## Swimming/ Rip Currents- 4 cases

02/07/2011: Lake Cathie, Port Macquarie

28/08/2011: Sawtell, Coffs Harbour

03/09/2011: Broulee, Far South Coast

09/10/2011: Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie

## Boating- 4 cases

01/10/2011: Hanging Rock, Batemans Bay x 4 persons

## Rock fishing- 3 cases

13/09/2011: Long Bay, Sydney

13/09/2011: South Curl Curl, Sydney

03/10/2011: Windang Island, Illawarra

## Surfing- 1 case

24/08/2011: Angourie, Yamba



## STATE OPERATIONS CENTRE ESTABLISHED

SLSNSW's lifesaving operations have been established with the establishment of a dedicated State Operations Centre (SOC).

### WHAT IS THE SOC?

The SOC is a single state-wide communications and coordination entity which can link all surf rescue services in NSW through internet-based communications technology.

### WHERE IS THE SOC?

The SOC operates from SLSNSW HQ in Belrose, Sydney.

### WHO STAFFS THE SOC?

Staffed by a full time Duty Operations Officer and complemented over summer by three SurfCom Operators, the SOC will act as the SurfCom Base for the Australian Lifeguard Service (15 NSW Councils) and coordinate 13SURF calls.

### HOW DOES THE SOC WORK?

The SOC is equipped with the latest Omnitronics touch-screen communications systems, voice recording, digital mapping, vessel/aircraft tracking systems and an internet based incident/service management program.

## CONTACT

**Emergency Phone: 13SURF** (24/7) – used by Emergency Services only

**Email:** [statedutyofficer@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:statedutyofficer@surflifesaving.com.au)



## ROCK FISHING

### Teenager swept to his death

A FISHERMAN has drowned after being swept into the sea by a large wave off the New South Wales Illawarra coast.

The 19-year-old was rock fishing off the eastern point of Windang Island, south of Wollongong, when he was knocked off his feet by a wave on Monday.

The wave swept him into the water and carried him away from the shore.

Other rock fishermen tried to throw him a lifebuoy but were unable to reach him, police said.

A Life Saver dived into the water and pulled the fisherman to the surface but he could not be revived and died at the scene.

Produced by Surf Life Saving NSW

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