



Newsplash



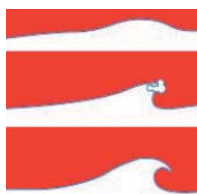
May 2009

Safety Message - Waves

Australia has some spectacular beaches and surf swimming is one of our favourite past times. If you are swimming at a patrolled beach in the Northern Territory, or visiting a beach interstate, observe the different types of waves before entering the water. Some waves may be dangerous and not suitable for body-surfing.

Three types of waves include:

- Surging waves
- Spilling waves
- Plunging or dumping waves



Surging Waves: May not break as they approach the water's edge as the water below them is very deep.

These waves pose a danger to swimmers as they can get knocked over or dragged back out to sea.

Spilling Waves: These waves are the most suitable for body surfing as they have less force. These waves are usually found near sheltered bays and sandbanks at high tide.

Plunging/Dumping Waves: Never try body surfing on these waves. These waves can break suddenly and throw you to the bottom of the ocean floor with great force. Because they usually occur at low tide in shallow areas they can cause head and spinal injuries to swimmers.

It is important that you observe the waves and enjoy the beach safely.

Boating safety

Pleasure craft in the Northern Territory don't have to be registered and operators are not required to hold a licence to drive them. However, there are minimum requirements for safety equipment and operators should familiarise themselves with requirements outlined in the Marine (Pleasure Craft)

Regulations. NT Marine and Fisheries Police conduct frequent patrols at boat ramps and on the water. There are penalties for not complying with these regulations.

The regulations and the *NT Marine Act* can be viewed at www.nt.gov.au

Positions vacant

The Australian Lifesaving Academy NT requires casual and part-time trainers. Please contact Julie Snelling on 8985 6588 or email julie.snelling@lifesavingnt.com.au for more information

New team member

The Water Safety Branch welcomes Danielle Francis to the team. Danielle has a background in NT Surf Lifesaving and NT Royal Lifesaving. She said she is excited about her new position as a Project Officer and is looking forward to sharing her water safety knowledge.

Wave Lagoon

Darwin's much anticipated Wave Lagoon opened on Saturday 2 May. The Water Safety Branch visited the opening to promote the free Water Safety Awareness Program for children under 5 years. There were lots of people interested in learning how to be water safety wise in and around the new wave lagoon.



Educational Opportunities

The Water Safety Branch now has water safety lesson plans available for all Territory teachers. Middle Years is now available online at www.watersafety.nt.gov.au and targets students from years seven through to nine. The plans are linked to the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework and consist of 20 x 40 minute lessons designed to be covered over a 10 week term.

Topics include:

- potentially hazardous water environments and activities
- assessment of the degree of risk
- strategies to minimise harm and risk
- strategies to respond to risky situations.

Lessons include relevant activities and associated teaching tools. For further information please contact the Water Safety Branch on 1300 301 059.

Surf Life Saving NT is offering surfing and surf lifesaving courses at the Wave Lagoon for schools and community groups. These courses are a great way to teach students about surf safety.

For more information or to register contact Amy on 8985 6588.

The Safety House Association of Alice Springs held its Family Fun Day on Sunday 10th of May at Albrecht Oval. This event is designed to showcase The Safe House Program and one extremely important aspect of having a "Safe House" is to also have a "Safe Pool". Boof the Barra, the water safety mascot made an appearance and a static display was also set up on the oval to highlight the importance of water safety.

Dates for your diary - 2009

- 11-12 July AUSTSWIM Education Conference, QLD
- 18 July Darwin to Ambon Yacht Race
- 22 August Henley-on-Todd Regatta, Alice Springs
- 2-4 October Barra Bash, Roper River
- 17-18 October Darwin Boat and Leisure Show

SNIPPIT

Surf lifesavers have commenced beach patrols at Mindil, Casuarina, Nightcliff and Gove's Town Beach.

If you are heading down to the beach, please remember to wear protective clothing and take vinegar with you, as box jellyfish may still be present.