



# California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

PO Box 366 - Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: [www.cslsa.org](http://www.cslsa.org)

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## California Surf Lifesaving Association Board of Directors Meeting October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### Legislative Report:

#### **AB 124**

Authors: **Coauthors: Assembly Members Beall, Dymally, and Krekorian)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Kuehl)

AB 124, as amended, Price. Meal and rest periods. Existing law authorizes the Industrial Welfare Commission to adopt orders respecting wages, hours, and working conditions.

Existing law also prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to work during a meal or rest period mandated by the commission. Any employer that requires an employee to work during a meal or rest period mandated by an order of the commission is required to pay the employee one hour's pay for each workday that the meal or rest period is not provided.

This bill would extend the protections afforded to employees covered by an order of the commission to pool lifeguards and stage assistants who are employed by the state or any political subdivision thereof *a city, county, or special district*, to the extent not in conflict with the provisions of a memorandum of understanding reached between an employer and a recognized employee organization, as specified.

Comment: The bill has been amended so that it defers to provisions of existing memorandums of understanding between employers and recognized employee organizations. It has also been amended so that it specifies *pool lifeguards and stage assistants* employed by any city, county, or special district...(state pool lifeguards have been taken off the bill).

#### **AB 732**

Author: DeVore

Amends section 243 of the Penal Code and increases the punishment for misdemeanor battery and includes code enforcement officers. PC 243 already includes the following public safety employees: When a battery is committed against the person of a peace officer, custodial officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, **lifeguard**, process server, traffic officer, code enforcement officer, or animal control officer engaged in the performance of his or her duties...

**AB 941**

Authors: INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Torrico (Principal *coauthors*:  
*Senators Ashburn and Ridley-Thomas* )  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Aghazarian)

An act to amend Sections 1797.170, 1797.171, and 1798.200 of, and to add Section 1797.117 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

This bill, if certain conditions are met, would require the authority to maintain a centralized system for monitoring and tracing EMT-I and EMT-II certification status and EMT-P licensure status to be used by employers and local EMS agencies as part of the background check process. The bill would require EMS providers to verify that a background check is completed on all EMT-I and EMT-II holders and to submit certification data.

This bill would require the authority to establish EMT-I and EMT-II certification and disciplinary guidelines. This bill would require an EMS provider who employs an EMT-I or EMT-II to investigate and, as necessary, discipline those EMT-I and EMT-II employees who commit specified acts. The bill would also revise the grounds for which the local EMS agency may impose additional discipline against an EMT-I or EMT-II certificate holder.

**A.B. No. 1335**

AUTHOR(S): Strickland.

TOPIC: Boating safety and enforcement programs.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/23/2007

LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

**A.B. No. 1458**

AUTHOR(S): Duvall.

TOPIC: Boating: vessel operator certificates and funding.

HOUSE LOCATION: ASM

LAST AMENDED DATE: 04/09/2007

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/10/2007

LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

## Statistics Report:

For lifeguards, the goal of collecting statistics is to recover accurate and reliable data that can be used to help justify the presence of lifeguards, defend an agency's budget, justify budget change proposals, identify needed changes in training and operational coverage or equipment.

Based on the information that the numerous agencies have turned in to me regarding their methodology of collecting their statistics, I cannot help but be impressed by the level of professionalism that is in place in terms of collecting the various statistics.

I have gone through the various forms that were submitted at our Spring Board of Directors meeting. There is a great variety of gathered statistics and the look and format of the statistical forms. The means of gathering the statistics also varies from agency to agency. The primary commonality is the collection of first aid and aquatic rescue statistics which are of course the "bread and butter" of the lifeguard services.

### **Aquatic Rescues:**

One of the areas in which improvement can be made has to do with what is done with the information that is collected? In terms of work load, analyzing and hand pulling individual rescue cards is tedious and not efficient. The idea of using a system similar to California State Parks in which the data is recorded using data cells that can be scanned electronically into a database that can be queried for information means that the information recorded in the field can be more effectively saved and used to manage an aquatic safety program.

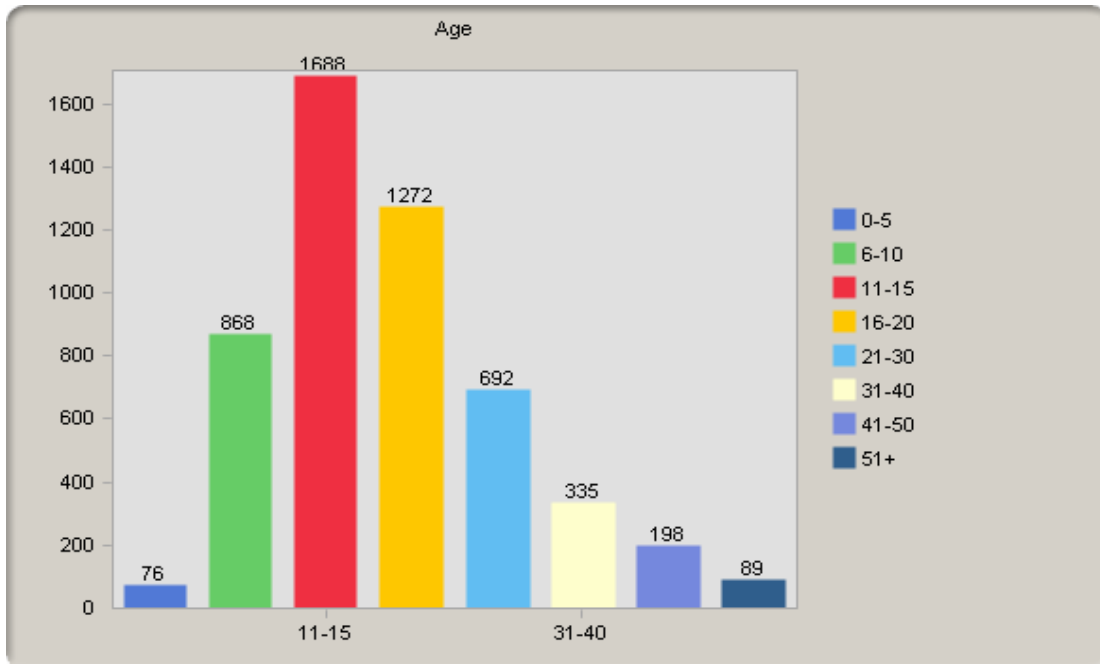
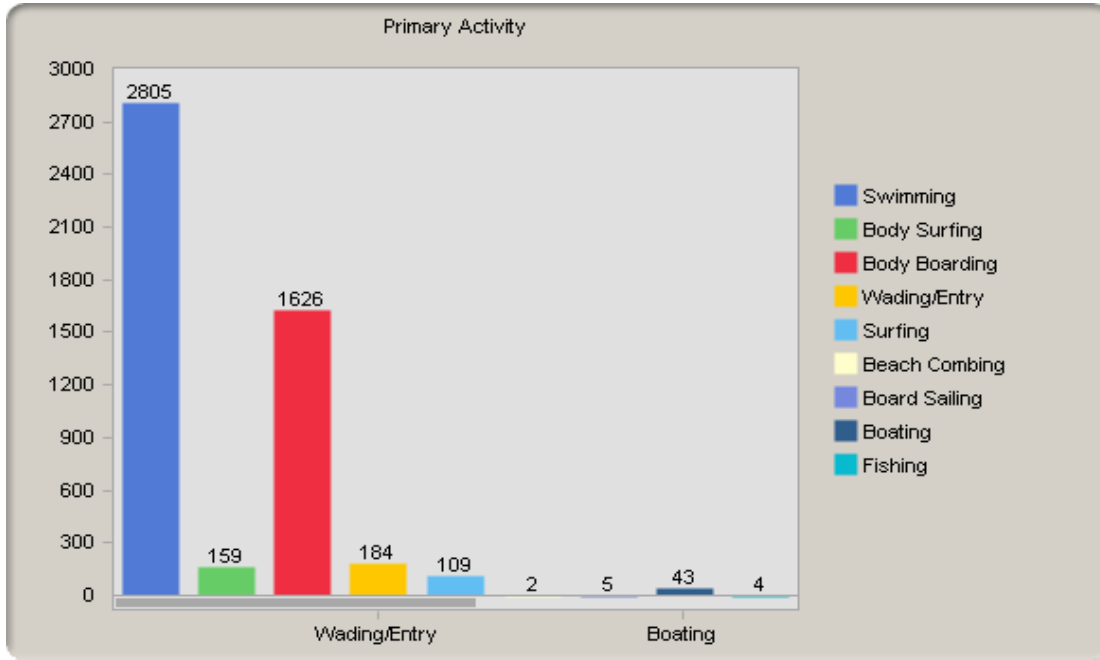
<b>AQUATIC RESCUE</b>			State of California - The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION			
Fill in circles completely. Do not use check marks or Xs in circles.						
<b>DATE</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>WEEKDAY</b>	<b>VICTIM</b>	<b>PRIMARY ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PRIMARY CAUSE</b>	<b>TREATMENT</b>
/ / mm dd yy	<input type="radio"/> Jan <input type="radio"/> Feb <input type="radio"/> Mar <input type="radio"/> Apr <input type="radio"/> May <input type="radio"/> Jun <input type="radio"/> Jul <input type="radio"/> Aug <input type="radio"/> Sep <input type="radio"/> Oct <input type="radio"/> Nov <input type="radio"/> Dec <input type="radio"/> Holiday <input type="radio"/> Special Event	<input type="radio"/> Sun <input type="radio"/> Mon <input type="radio"/> Tue <input type="radio"/> Wed <input type="radio"/> Thu <input type="radio"/> Fri <input type="radio"/> Sat	<b>General</b> <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female  <input type="radio"/> Fins <input type="radio"/> Alcohol <input type="radio"/> Nonswimmer  <b>Age (years)</b> <input type="radio"/> 0 - 5 <input type="radio"/> 6 - 10 <input type="radio"/> 11 - 15 <input type="radio"/> 16 - 20 <input type="radio"/> 21 - 30 <input type="radio"/> 31 - 40 <input type="radio"/> 41 - 50 <input type="radio"/> 51 +	<i>(select only one)</i> <input type="radio"/> Swimming <input type="radio"/> Body Surfing <input type="radio"/> Body Boarding <input type="radio"/> Wading/Entry <input type="radio"/> Surfing <input type="radio"/> Beach Combing <input type="radio"/> Board Sailing <input type="radio"/> Boating <input type="radio"/> Fishing <input type="radio"/> Flotation <input type="radio"/> Kayaking <input type="radio"/> Rescue Attempt <input type="radio"/> SCUBA <input type="radio"/> Skin Diving <input type="radio"/> WW Rafting/Kayaking <input type="radio"/> Unknown <input type="radio"/> Other: _____	<i>(select only one)</i> <input type="radio"/> Rip <input type="radio"/> Surf <input type="radio"/> Drop Off <input type="radio"/> Exhaustion <input type="radio"/> Wind <input type="radio"/> Rocks <input type="radio"/> Cliff <input type="radio"/> Cold Water <input type="radio"/> Debris <input type="radio"/> Equip Failure <input type="radio"/> Illness <input type="radio"/> Jetty <input type="radio"/> Kelp <input type="radio"/> Pier <input type="radio"/> Sea Life <input type="radio"/> Sea Wall <input type="radio"/> Surfboard <input type="radio"/> Swift Water <input type="radio"/> Unknown <input type="radio"/> Other: _____	<input type="radio"/> C-Spine <input type="radio"/> Oxygen <input type="radio"/> Resuscitation <input type="radio"/> CPR <input type="radio"/> Near Drowning <input type="radio"/> Other: _____  <b>EQUIPMENT USED</b> <input type="radio"/> Buoy <input type="radio"/> Fins <input type="radio"/> Board <input type="radio"/> Vehicle <input type="radio"/> I.R.B. <input type="radio"/> Vessel <input type="radio"/> P.W.C. <input type="radio"/> Helo <input type="radio"/> AED <input type="radio"/> Dive <input type="radio"/> Other: _____
<b>TIME</b>						
<input type="radio"/> 2401-0600 <input type="radio"/> 0601-0800 <input type="radio"/> 0801-1000 <input type="radio"/> 1001-1200 <input type="radio"/> 1201-1400 <input type="radio"/> 1401-1600 <input type="radio"/> 1601-1800 <input type="radio"/> 1801-2000 <input type="radio"/> 2001-2400						
<b>BEACH NUMBER</b>	<b>TOWER NUMBER</b>					
<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;" type="text"/>					
			<b>CONDITIONS</b>			
			<b>Surf (feet)</b>	<b>Yards Fr Shore</b>	<b>Water Temp</b>	
			<input type="radio"/> 0 - 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 - 4 <input type="radio"/> 5 - 6 <input type="radio"/> 7 - 8 <input type="radio"/> 9 - 10 <input type="radio"/> 11 - 12 <input type="radio"/> 13 - 15 <input type="radio"/> 16 - 20 <input type="radio"/> 21 +	<input type="radio"/> 0 - 10 <input type="radio"/> 11 - 25 <input type="radio"/> 26 - 50 <input type="radio"/> 51 - 100 <input type="radio"/> 101 - 200 <input type="radio"/> 201 - 300 <input type="radio"/> 301 - 400 <input type="radio"/> 401 - 800 <input type="radio"/> 801 +	<input type="radio"/> 0 - 50 <input type="radio"/> 51 - 55 <input type="radio"/> 56 - 60 <input type="radio"/> 61 - 65 <input type="radio"/> 66 - 70 <input type="radio"/> 71 - 75 <input type="radio"/> 76 - 80 <input type="radio"/> 81 - 85 <input type="radio"/> 86 +	
			VICTIM PRINTED NAME <i>(last, first, middle initial)</i>			
			VICTIM HOME CITY AND STATE			
			LIFEGUARD PRINTED NAME <i>(last, first, middle initial)</i>			

DPR 405B (Rev. 4/2003)(Front) Excel

The need for immediate, usable, and accurate data is more important than ever for lifeguard agencies. Below is an example of the information collected using this type of card and how the data can be used effectively:

- Primary Activities of Aquatic Rescue Victims in California State Parks in 2006**

The popularity of body boarding, or “boogie boarding” amongst young teenagers, 11 – 15 years, is reflected in the activity of rescued victims. This also is reflected in the age of 37% of rescued victims seen in the table below.



This type of data can be utilized to adjust the training of lifeguards to changing recreational activities of the public, focus on specific age groups in terms of public education, and assist the agency to justify fiscal issues.

## **Fatalities**

Although a rather morbid area of discussion, as a friend of mine who worked in the coroner's office told me, "Death is something everyone has in common."

One area that is important for all agencies is to verify the causation of death. Many times, incidents that appear for all intents and purposes as being a drowning, may in fact be due to a pre-existing medical condition (Natural Death).

By California law, the coroner or medical examiner of each county is required to determine the cause of death of each fatality occurring in the county. This determination breaks down as follows:

1. Natural: A death due to natural causes such as heart attack, stroke, or other medical condition.
2. Suicide: Death due to a person intentionally killing oneself.
3. Homicide: A death attributed to the intentional actions of another person.
4. Unintentional Death (referred at times as Accidental Death):
5. Pending Investigation
6. Undetermined: A death that cannot be attributed to any particular cause.

A death by drowning is an Unintentional Death. As one would guess, Unintentional, or Accidental Death can be broken down in many ways. There are certainly a number of ways that people accidentally end their life. Based on the common sub-categories used by coroners, here is how California State Parks identifies Accidental Deaths:

1. Accidental Falls
2. Airplane Accidents
3. Drownings
4. Motor Vehicle Accidents
5. Vessel Accidents
6. Wildlife Interaction
7. Other

A common mistake made by lifeguard agencies is counting a suicide as a drowning. If an individual swims out and intentionally drowns themselves this event is ruled, by law, a suicide.

It would be my recommendation that when agencies are compiling their end of the year statistics that they contact the coroner, or medical examiner of their county and confirm causation of death. In many cases the agency should be able to get a copy of the coroners report which can be very informative especially if you are looking for secondary issues to the event such as the presence of alcohol, drugs, or a pre-existing medical condition.

## **Recommendations:**

I believe that the issue of statistics should be a component of the educational day at the USLA Board of Directors meeting. Many of those who attended the spring BOD of the CSLSA expressed concern about the accuracy of the statistics reported to the USLA statistics by some agencies. This may be due to lack of personnel assigned to the task, or

in some cases, liability issues concerning the release of confidential information in some states.

For CSLSA, it is vital that all member agencies report their end of the year statistics in a timely method to the USLA in order to maintain a reliable national database. While collecting statistics, I recommend the following:

- Ensure that the data collected at the tower level (field level) of the agency is easy to obtain, and not lost. In some examples that I reviewed I found that the data collected on the rescue card did not always find its way to the person who compiled the statistics.
- Identify the process for collection from the field level to the administrative level. Ensure that all staff are familiar with the process and trained to adhere to protocol so that the information collected is standardized, consistent, and accurate.
- Utilize the data collected for the purpose of improving the methods and standards of the lifeguard service and improving aquatic safety.
- Where it is possible, incorporate electronic collection of the data to improve the accuracy of the data and reduce staff hours that would be better spent watching the water.
- Follow up on all fatalities to determine the cause of death and any contributing factors.

### **USLA Board of Directors Meeting – Spring 2009**

Full deposit has been paid by the CSLA and the CSLSA. Asilomar has confirmed the reservation. I was contacted during August and requested to sign the agreement. I identified several problems with the itinerary that did not match up with our schedule. I confirmed that all participants will be charged the state rate for lodging and meals. Until I receive and updated agreement I told the reservation person that I would not sign.

I have contacted Asilomar and will be meeting with their manager for guest operations later in October. California State Parks looks forward to hosting this event in 2009!

Respectfully submitted,



Alex K. Peabody  
Fourth Executive Delegate