



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular

December 2008

BEACH PATROL SHELTERS AND CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

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Department Lifesaving	

Summary

The following circular provides information on the importance of providing members on patrol with adequate shade and shelter.

It discusses the OHS responsibilities of lifesaving clubs, current beach shade options for clubs and the correct set-up procedures for the current Beach-Patrol-Shade (BPS)

A beach patrol shelter is an important item of equipment on patrol. Not only is it a source protection from the harsh elements of sun and wind for patrolling members but it acts as identification of our life saving services for members of the public.

As an important part of a club's occupational health and safety responsibility to its members, surf clubs and their affiliated branches (where applicable) are responsible for the purchase, provision and maintenance of adequate shade/shelter for their members.

For surf clubs seeking suitable beach shade/shelters, there are a number of options available on the market for clubs to explore:

1. <http://www.beach-patrol-shade.com.au/>
2. www.quikshade.com.au/
3. www.skyshade.com.au

NB: Please note that SLSA does not endorse any particular type of shade, the above links have been provided are options for clubs.

Important: Correct set-up procedures for the 'Beach-Patrol-Shade'

For surf clubs currently using the 'Beach-Patrol-Shade' variety of tent (the Opera House sail inspired design), please note that there are a number of important set-up procedures to ensure that the tent is constructed and used safely.

Incorrect set-up of the shade is potentially dangerous and can lead to injury of both patrolling members and the public and possible financial implications for the club. For example, poor construction combined with high winds can lead to collapse of the tent or it even being lifted from the ground and blown into bystanders.

To ensure that all members of patrol and the public are protected from injury there are three training methods available for correct and safe use of the beach patrol shade:

1. Written Instructions: Printed written instructions for the set-up of the beach patrol tent are to be laminated and kept with the tent at ALL times. Instructions can be downloaded from the website at <http://www.beach-patrol-shade.com.au/>



2. Video instructions: A 10 minute instructional video can also be found on the website <http://www.beach-patrol-shade.com.au/>. The video should be shown to all patrol captains at least once during the patrolling season. This can be done via email and a link to the website or broadcast at the regular patrol captain's meeting.
3. On-site Training: One-on-one training from the Beach Patrol Shade company is also available to clubs once a year. If club and/or patrol captains wish to make use of this free training please contact 0410 611 949 or 1800 818 421 to arrange a suitable time. Conditions apply outside NSW.

In addition, patrol captains should dedicate time to instruct ALL members of the patrol on correct and safe use of the patrol tent. The first patrol of the season is an ideal time to conduct a group training session.



The 'Beach-Patrol-Shade'