



# Surf Life Saving Australia

August 2009

## Patrol Hour Recognition for Duty Officers

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<b>Department</b> Lifesaving / Operations	

### Summary

The National Board of Lifesaving has endorsed the recognition of the time actually coordinating an incident response as patrol hours for volunteer duty officers when activated whilst 'on call'.

### From

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Director of Lifesaving

### Introduction

Due to the implementation of state based emergency activation systems by Surf Life Saving, duty officers duties now extend well beyond in-season and regular hour response. Duty officers are now on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week, based on a roster system and are activated by emergency services including police and ambulance for aquatic rescue.

They are integral part of enhancing Surf Life Saving's capability to respond to all incidents involving aquatic rescue and allowing Surf Life Saving to respond at anytime.

### Issue

There is currently no recognition of the service being provided by volunteer duty officers. There is also confusion over whether hours should be honoured for the entire 'on call' period and just when activated to respond to an incident.

### Outcomes

The need to recognise the commitment of duty officers for active response to assist with incidents was addressed by the National Board of Lifesaving. It has been decided that duty officers responding to such incidents will be able to record the time from the commencement to the conclusion of an incident as patrol hours. This does not include the entire 'on call' period, it only includes only the time that duty officer is actively coordinating an incident.

These hours will be finalised by each state centre who will verify the patrol service using incident paperwork or local log books and enter it into Surfguard.

### Questions

Please direct any questions regarding this circular to your state centre in the first instance. Alternatively, please contact the SLSA lifesaving team on (02) 9300 4000.