

# BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA Beach Safety Tips

Welcome to Broward County and to some of Florida's most beautiful beaches. The Broward County Tourist Development Council encourages you to enjoy the many recreational opportunities found on our beaches, but we encourage you to be safe. Five of our beaches have been designated **Blue Wave** beaches by the National Clean Beaches Council, making them some of the cleanest and safest in the country.



## Tip 1: Always swim near a lifeguard.

Here is a list of Broward County beach patrols. Because there are different times that our beaches are actively guarded, you should call the agency nearest you to find the times when lifeguards are on duty.

Deerfield Beach: (954) 480-4413  
Pompano Beach: (954) 786-4005  
Fort Lauderdale Beach: (954) 828-4597  
Dania Beach: (954) 924-3696  
Hollywood Beach: (954) 921-3334  
Hallandale Beach: (954) 457-1456

Before swimming, it is important to learn about any possible hazards. This can be accomplished by: Asking a beach lifeguard, calling one of the lifeguard beach condition phone numbers, locating a warning flag and responding to the flag advisory, or locating a beach condition board and following the advisory.

## Tip 2: Locate and obey warning flags.

Please respect the city's flag warning signs which are located on the beach side of the property. The meaning of the different color flags is as follows:

**GREEN FLAG:** Low hazard with the possibility of larger waves and rip currents. Exercise normal care.

**YELLOW FLAG:** Medium hazard with moderate rip currents/surf conditions. Use extra care.

**RED FLAG:** High hazard. Dangerous rip currents/surf conditions. Avoid entering the water.

**DOUBLE RED FLAG:** Water and/or beach closed to the public.

**PURPLE FLAG:** Sea pests present (jellyfish, man-of-wars, and/or sea lice). This flag may be flown along with any of the other flags.



## Tip 3: Learn to identify and avoid rip currents.

One of the most serious beach hazards is rip currents. Rip currents can be unpredictable, dangerous and deadly. To avoid being caught in a rip current, please use good judgment and learn how to identify these currents. Rip currents are strong localized rivers of water that usually flow away from the beach at a surprisingly high velocity. Usually they are associated with large waves and strong offshore winds, but not always! In rare cases, rip currents occur during calm conditions.

How to spot a possible rip current:

- Unusual choppiness
- Discoloration of water (sometimes brown or murky)
- Debris or foam moving forward

**Rip currents can kill. If caught in a rip current, DO NOT PANIC!**  
**Swim parallel to the shore until the current weakens, then swim back to shore.**

## 10 other important Beach Safety Tips:

1. Never swim alone.
2. Never drink alcohol before going swimming.
3. Don't swim far from shore.
4. Avoid swimming during darkness and twilight hours.
5. Don't swim near a fisherman.
6. Only swim in a bathing suit. Clothing may become waterlogged and drag you under.
7. Never dive head first into shallow water.
8. Avoid swimming near piers, jetties, inlets and groins.
9. Don't go swimming when there are jellyfish or feeding fish in the water.
10. Never rely on flotation devices.



## Other recommendations:

- Don't get dehydrated, drink plenty of fluids.
- Always use waterproof sunscreen with an SPF rating of 15 or greater.
- Do not wear shiny objects or jewelry into the water.
- Always closely supervise young children, even when lifeguards are present.

## You're in good sands in Broward. Broward County beaches with lifeguards:

DEERFIELD BEACH  
Current conditions:  
(954) 480-4413  
[www.deerfield-beach.com](http://www.deerfield-beach.com)

FORT LAUDERDALE  
Current conditions:  
(954) 828-4597  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov/  
oceanrescue/index.asp](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/oceanrescue/index.asp)

HOLLYWOOD BEACH  
Current conditions:  
(954) 921-3423  
[www.hollywoodfl.org/beachsafety/  
bs\\_safetytips.htm](http://www.hollywoodfl.org/beachsafety/bs_safetytips.htm)

