



Circular 109:09:07

To: South West Region Club Captains
South West Region Club Presidents
South West Region Club Secretaries
South West Region Powercraft Officers
South West Region Radio Officers

cc: Bellarine District Officer
South Barwon District Officer
Otway District Officer
Regional Officers
State Lifesaving Communications Officer
State Powercraft Officer
State Emergency Management Officer

From: Matthew Ponsford, Regional Officer, South West Region

Date: 4th September 2007

Subject: Search and Rescue Exercise – South West Region

Action: Register interest with Regional Officer by Monday 17th September

In October 2006, a number of South West Region Clubs participated in 'Operation Lonsdale' which was a Search and Rescue exercise, coordinated via the Borough of Queenscliffe's Municipal Emergency Management Committee – with the Australian Volunteer Coastguard (Queenscliff) taking a lead role in organising this.

Another Search and Rescue exercise is planned for October 2007 and it is proposed to have a wider range of emergency services involved. It is designed to have a Marine Search and Rescue element, together with casualty registration and associated support services. At this stage, invitations have been extended to Victoria Police (Queenscliff), CFA, SES, AVCG, LSV, Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad, Torquay Marine Rescue, Australian Red Cross and Department of Human Services.

Even though the exercise is centred on the Bellarine area, this year all South West Region Clubs that are interested in participating in this exercise can do so, as at present this is the only formal Search and Rescue Exercise that we have access to in the Region.

Final details are still to be confirmed, but some proposed details include –

Wednesday 17 October –

Desktop Exercise.

Venue: TBC – most likely in the Queenscliff / Point Lonsdale area

Commencing at 1930 hrs.

Saturday 27 October -

Exercise Lonsdale 2007

Notes for LSV involvement –

- I hope that as much as possible, this exercise will test our readiness to respond to incidents out of hours, therefore you should ensure that LSV Comms has an up-to-date and accurate copy of your out of hours contact details. This information is used by LSV Comms to activate Clubs out of hours (contact Greg Scott at LSV to update your information). You should also ensure that patrol uniforms are worn and that your lifesaving equipment is safe and fully ready / operational, eg. Radios charged, adequate fuel etc.
- Due to delays in response from Clubs due to distance from the area (and the desire to involve as many Clubs as possible), most likely LSV resources will be staged at the Point Lonsdale SLSC.
- LSV Comms will most likely be involved,.
- As would normally happen, the Regional Officer will be contacted and will either assume the role of LSV Commander or delegate this to another appropriate person.
- We will follow all normal LSV SOPs etc.
- As there are no patrols in operation during this period, all members in IRBs are required to wear PFDs.

I hope to be able to provide further information after I have attended the Coordinators Conference, to be held in late September and will forward this via e-mail to those that have replied.

For additional detail on this Circular contact: **Matthew Ponsford**
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