

**Beach Safety  
Full-Time Lifeguard Position  
Employment Opportunity  
SALARY & BENEFITS**

**\$24.37 Hourly rate (\$50,690 base) with full-time, year-round employment, hourly overtime rates, accrued PTO and Sick leave benefits, sponsored group health insurance, 401a retirement plan, & other benefits.**

**The South Walton Fire District is now accepting applicants for full-time, year-round Beach Safety Lifeguard positions.**

South Walton's beaches are nestled along the Emerald Coast in the Florida Panhandle. This area runs from the Okaloosa/Walton County Line on the west, to the Walton/ Bay County Line on the east, and from the Choctawhatchee Bay (Intracoastal Waterway) north, to the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The South Walton Fire District provides its residents with a comprehensive range of services, including firefighting, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), seasonal lifeguarding, 911 call-taking, public fire education, and prevention duties, covering an area of 84 square miles within Walton County, Florida. The Department's 200 employees are assigned to support five fire stations and fifteen lifeguard towers located throughout the District. The position of Full-Time Lifeguard is a highly responsible Beach Safety / Lifeguard position. Duties may include implementing and monitoring training, logistic support, and participation in surf rescue emergency response activities as required.

**Position Summary:**

The position of Beach Safety Full-time Lifeguard is a highly responsible frontline Beach Safety / Lifeguard position. Duties include coordinating, implementing, and monitoring training, logistic support, and participation in surf rescue emergency response activities as required.

**Illustrative Duties:**

- Establish and maintain a Professional Attitude towards all SWFD personnel and the public;
- Serves as frontline personnel who patrol the beach area, monitoring beach patron education and safety as well as conducting emergency water rescue and medical responses;
- Assists in supervising seasonal personnel who patrol the beach area, monitoring beach patron education and safety;
- Assists in the execution of training programs for employees;
- Assists Beach Safety administrative staff in assigning work to subordinate personnel.
- Makes daily inspections of the beach conditions, rescue equipment, and personnel.
- Reports maintenance needs on beach safety equipment, as well as beach environment facilities such as walkways, signs, and restrooms.
- Performs minor maintenance tasks.
- Fosters and promotes a positive beach experience for beach patrons.
- Assists in the development and delivery of educational programs.
- Submits and reviews emergency & medical treatment reports, and maintains daily activity reports on weather and beach conditions.
- Prepares reports on daily activities for management review.
- Recommends changes in methods and procedures to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, as well as maintaining a casual recreation atmosphere.
- Oversees compliance with minimum standards for environmental and natural resource protection.
- Performs other related duties as required by SWFD Administrative staff leadership to meet any SWFD operational needs.

**Knowledge Required for the Position:**

- Certification to execute all USLA Open Water Manual material;
- Certification of CPR, and First Responder (EMR- Emergency Medical Responder) level first aid at the time of probationary period hire, then completion and Certification as a Florida Certified EMT before completion of the probationary period;
- Ability to extend a hospitable attitude towards visitors and customers on the beach, assuring they will have a safe and enjoyable stay and want to return for future visits;
- Ability to exercise tact, firmness, and good judgment in enforcing rules and regulations;
- Ability to react quickly and calmly in emergencies;
- Ability to minimize and contain dangerous situations;
- Ability to recognize emergencies and to take effective action;
- Ability to supervise subordinate personnel engaged in aquatic rescue and law enforcement functions.

**Supervisory Controls:**

- Reports to the Beach Safety Officers, Lieutenants, Beach Safety Director, and other SWFD administrative staff as designated by the Fire Chief.

**Physical Demands:**

Typically required to run, swim, paddle, and walk long distances; stand and sit for long periods; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, bend, crouch or crawl; reach with hands and arms; talk and hear both in person from close and long distances and by phone or radio; use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate lifesaving equipment; and safely drive emergency vehicles. The employee regularly lifts, pushes, or pulls persons or equipment weighing over 100 pounds.

**Work Environment:**

The work is typically performed on the beach. The employee is exposed to direct sunshine, wind, salt air & saltwater, and inclement weather, including rain, heat, humidity, and cold. Exposure to adverse ocean conditions, including water temperatures as low as fifty degrees.

Work requires analysis, judgment, and concentration in accomplishing diversified duties, in particular, the monitoring of large crowds of beach patrons in the aquatic environment. Work requires the exercise of independent thinking within the limits of guidelines, policies, standards, and precedents. Requires constant SWFD Fire Radio monitoring while on duty and the ability to respond to after-hours incidents.

***Significant Overtime and mandatory shifts are required during the busy season and as directed by necessity.***

NOTE: Reasonable accommodation considerations will be made for otherwise qualified individuals with a disability.

**Supervisory and Management Responsibility:**

Assists with the Beach Safety Command Staff's supervision of assigned seasonal lifeguards.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Must have or obtain within 30 days, a valid Florida driver's license with an acceptable driving record;
- Current CPR certification as accepted by the Florida Department of Health;
- USLA certification and a minimum of 300 hours as an open-water lifeguard to qualify for probationary hiring; a combination of additional training and/or experience may be considered.

- USLA Personal Rescue Watercraft Certification, or as soon as the PRWC Training Academy is offered within the hiring probationary period;
- Must obtain FL EMT Basic certification within a 1-year probationary period or as soon as classes are available to ensure operational needs; SWFD may pay for a significant portion of costs to obtain certification;
- Must pass advanced physical testing requirements set by Beach Safety staff;
- Must be a non-smoking/non-tobacco-using person, both on and off the job, at the time of employment, and maintain the same non-smoking and non-use throughout the term of employment;
- Must successfully pass the Fire District's medical/physical, drug screen, and background check requirements as a condition of employment.

**DURING OCCASIONS OF LOCAL EMERGENCIES, THIS POSITION MAY BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO PERFORM EMERGENCY TASKS, WHICH MAY RESULT IN EXTENDED WORK HOURS, AS WELL AS EXTENDED PERIODS AWAY FROM FAMILY MEMBERS.**

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**Complete application packets MUST include a typed application, cover letter, resume, & relevant certifications.**

**Certifications obtained with SWFD will be available for copies by submitting an email request to [dvaughan@swfd.org](mailto:dvaughan@swfd.org)**

**Completed Packets MUST be submitted via email as PDF attachments to [career@swfd.org](mailto:career@swfd.org).**

Applications are available at

[https://www.swfd.org/SWFD/media/data/pdf/Admin\\_-\\_Application.pdf](https://www.swfd.org/SWFD/media/data/pdf/Admin_-_Application.pdf)

**DOWNLOAD THE PDF AND SAVE IT BEFORE FILLING IT OUT AND ATTACHING IT TO YOUR EMAIL, OR ELSE THE APPLICATION WILL COME BACK BLANK.**

**The hiring process will include the passage of each of the following stages:**

- 1. An evaluation of the Completed Application Packet;**
- 2. An in-person written evaluation covering USLA, BLS, EMR, SOGs, and Operations & Ordinances;**
- 3. An in-person medical and physical skills evaluation;**
- 4. A panel interview.**
- 5. A secondary Administrative interview.**
- 6. Offer of employment.**

**All timelines listed above are subject to modification as required and are listed here as a courtesy for candidates' consideration of their respective timelines and scheduling availability & planning.**