

Town of Nantucket Lifeguard Program



Operational Plan
Summer 2012

Nantucket Lifeguard Program Operational Plan

Purpose:

➤ Develop an operations plan that will improve public safety on Nantucket's seven guarded beaches through

- 1. Prevention**
- 2. Preparedness**
- 3. Professional Response**



Nantucket Lifeguard Program Operational Plan

General Beach Information:

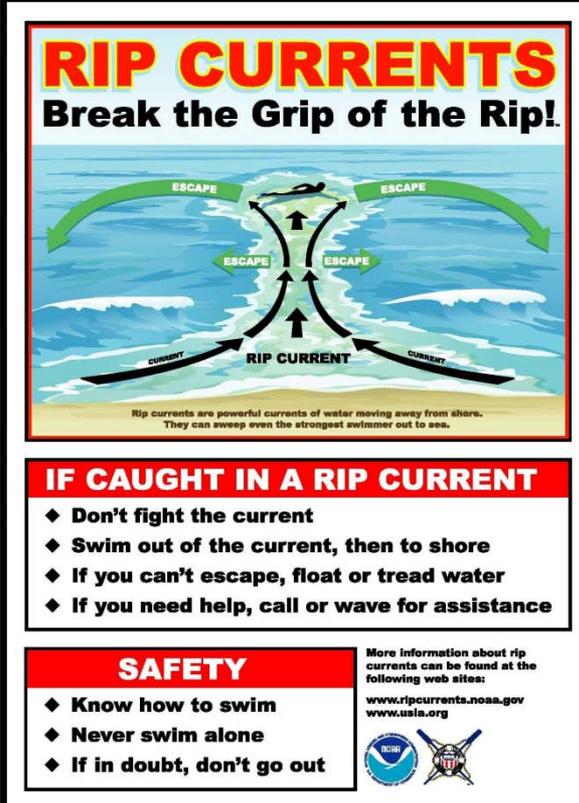
➤ Nantucket's beaches are some of the most popular beaches in the northeast. Beach population averages between 4,000 to 6,000 people on Nantucket's guarded beaches daily and can be dramatically higher on long weekends and holidays.



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General Beach Information:

➤ The waters around Nantucket are dynamic, with currents and tides that are greatly influenced by the wind and weather conditions and shifting shoals. The strength of the current is significant, with the strongest and most dangerous effects located on the west and south side of the island. There are also significant rip currents and frequent surf conditions on the west end and south side beaches.



RIP CURRENTS
Break the Grip of the Rip!

ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE

CURRENT RIP CURRENT CURRENT

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.usia.org



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Prevention:

- Prevention is the primary role of the lifeguard
- Lifeguards are trained to observe and anticipate problem situations and correct them before an accident occurs
- Prevention through public awareness (flag system and signage)



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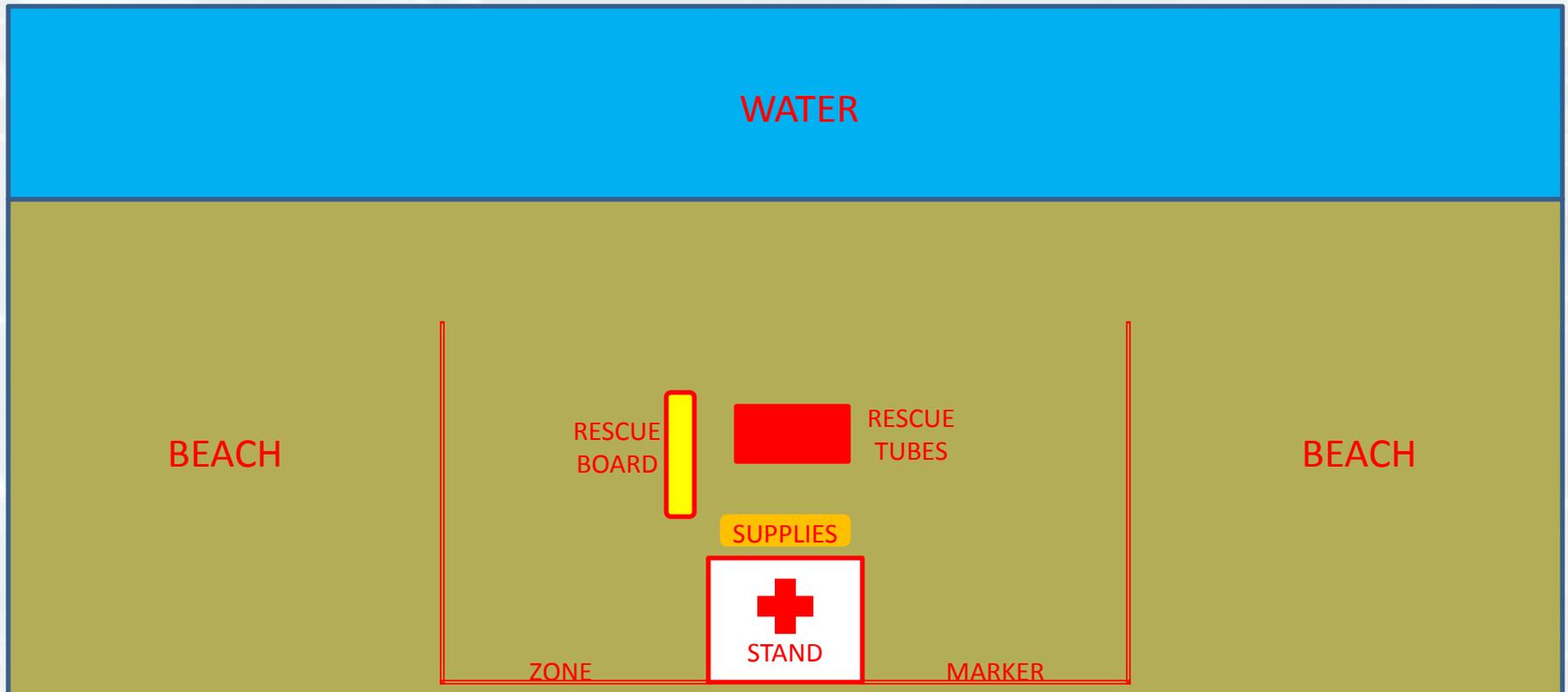
Prevention:

- The area immediately in front of the lifeguard stands is reserved for lifeguard use only.
 - Mark off area with zone markers
 - Be sure guards vision is not hindered
 - Clear path to water
 - Equipment readily available.

Anyone or anything encroaching upon this area must be removed.

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Prevention-Lifeguard Beach Area:



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Preparedness:

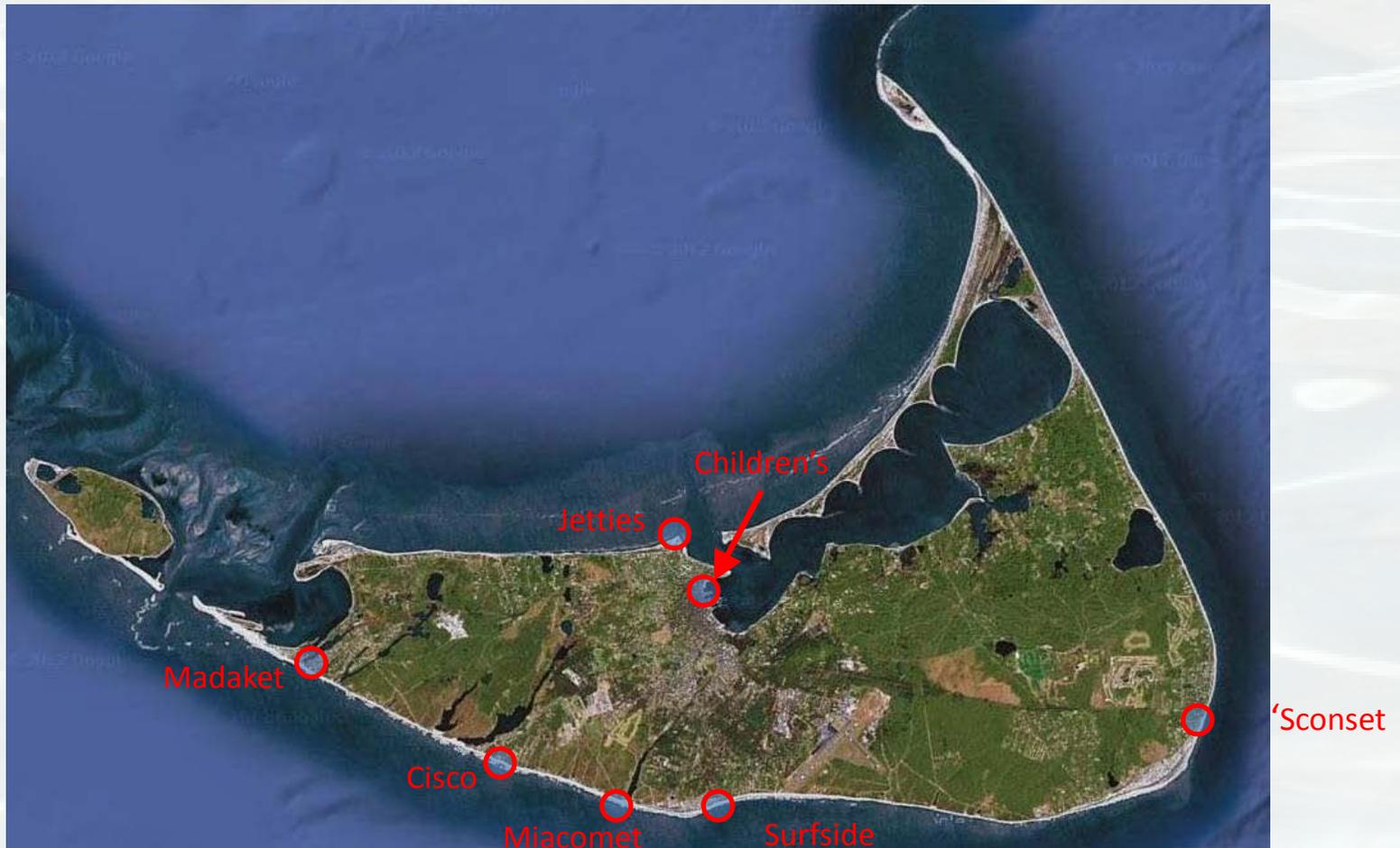
- Trained to National Standards (CPR, Lifeguarding)
- Beaches adequately staffed
- Properly maintained equipment
- Daily and weekly training for all guards
- Understanding each of the guarded beaches and their individual situations/hazards
- Adapting operations to prevailing weather conditions
- Effective communications between all public safety responders

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General Beach Information:

➤ The seven lifeguarded beaches:

Jetties, Children's, 'Sconset, Madaket, Cisco, Miacomet, and Surfside.



Jetties Beach – 3 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)

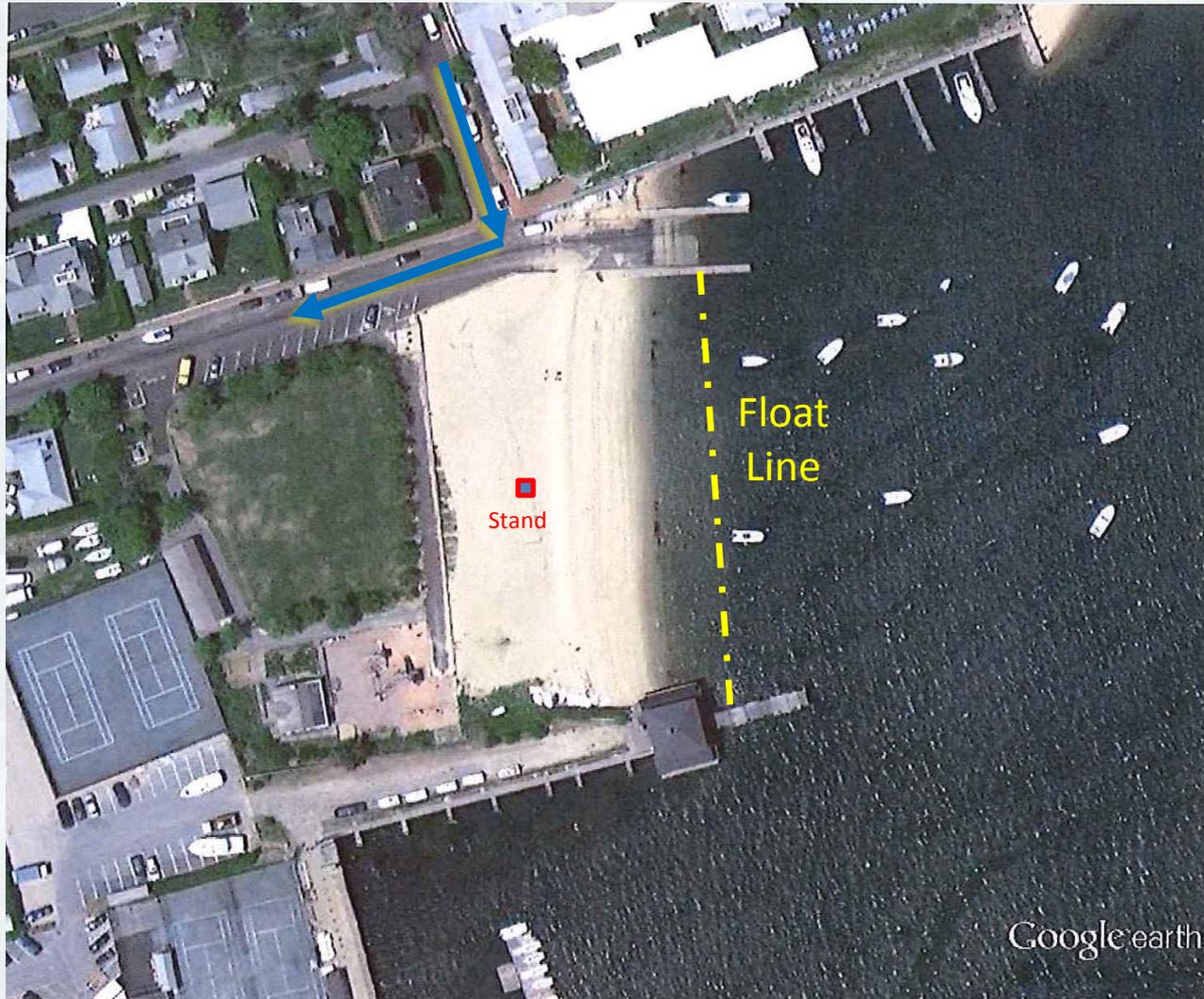


Hazards to expect:

Rock Jetties, Tides, Sand bars, Large Crowds, Small Children

Children's Beach – 2 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)



Hazards to expect:

Boat Ramp, Mooring Field, Small Children

'Sconset Beach – 2 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)

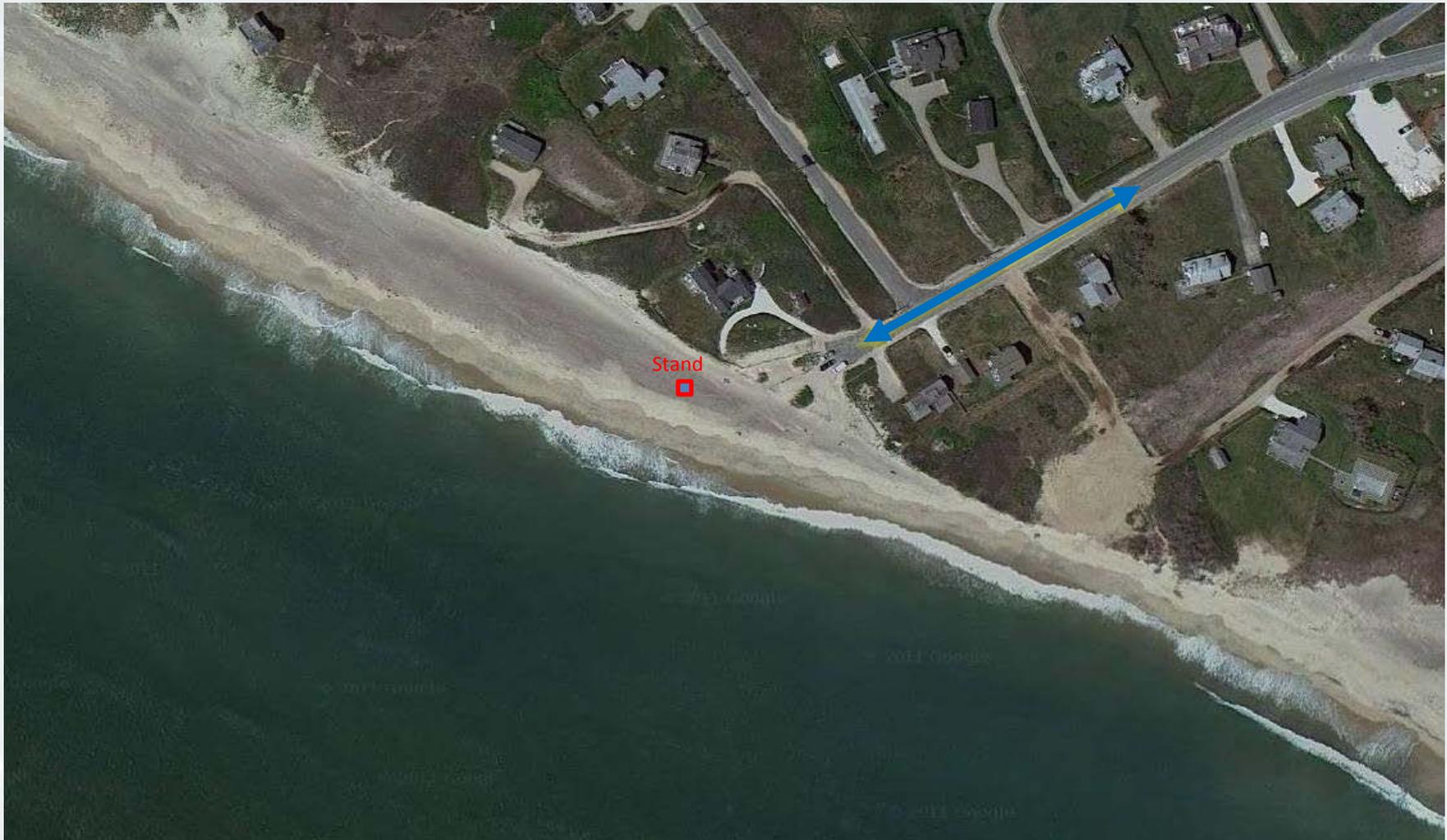


Hazards to expect:

10 Feet out 10 Feet Deep, Seals

Madaket Beach – 3 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)

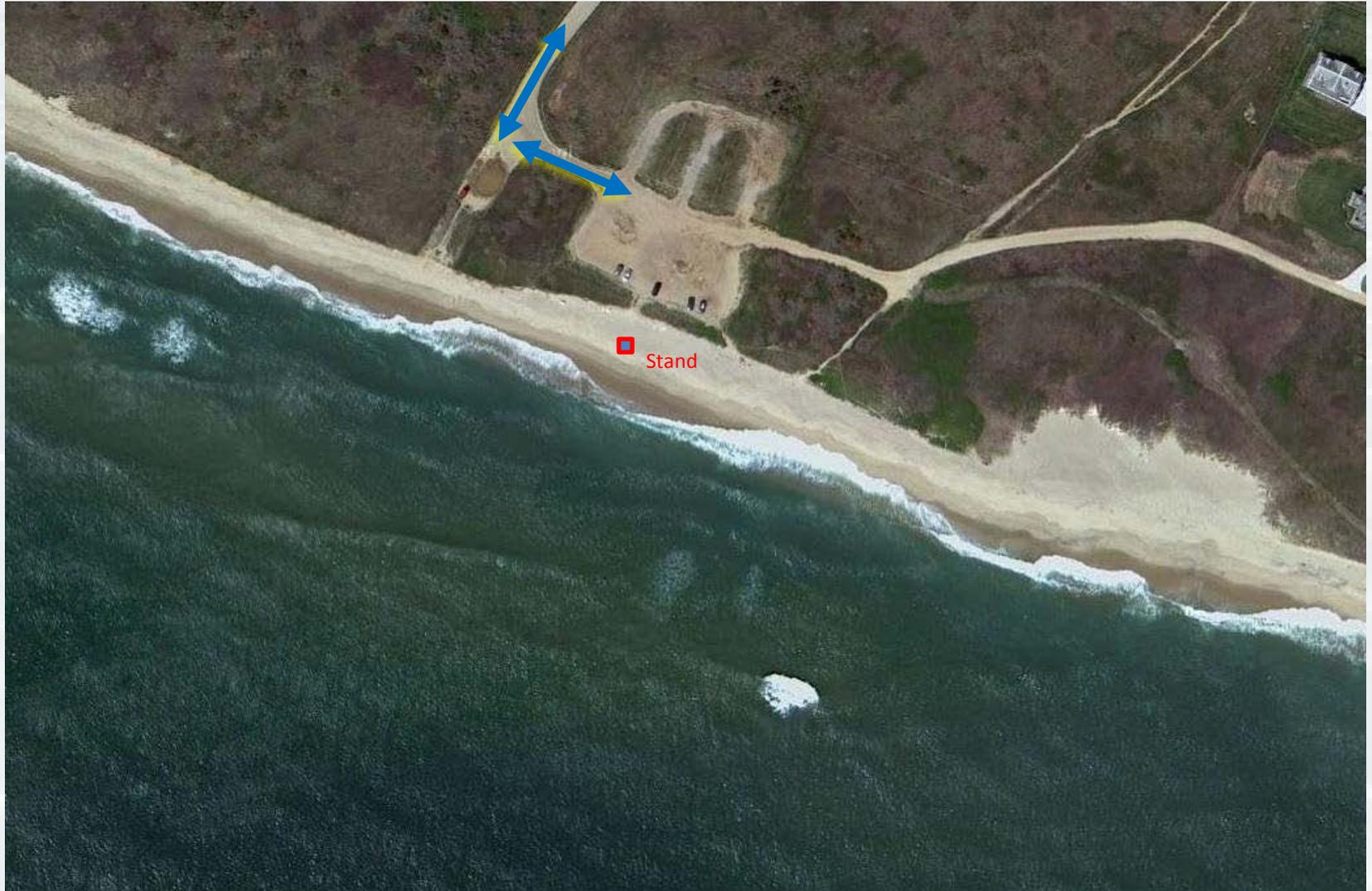


Hazards to expect:

Rip current, Strong Currents, Underwater hazards, Shore break, Surfers, Seals

Cisco Beach – 4 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)

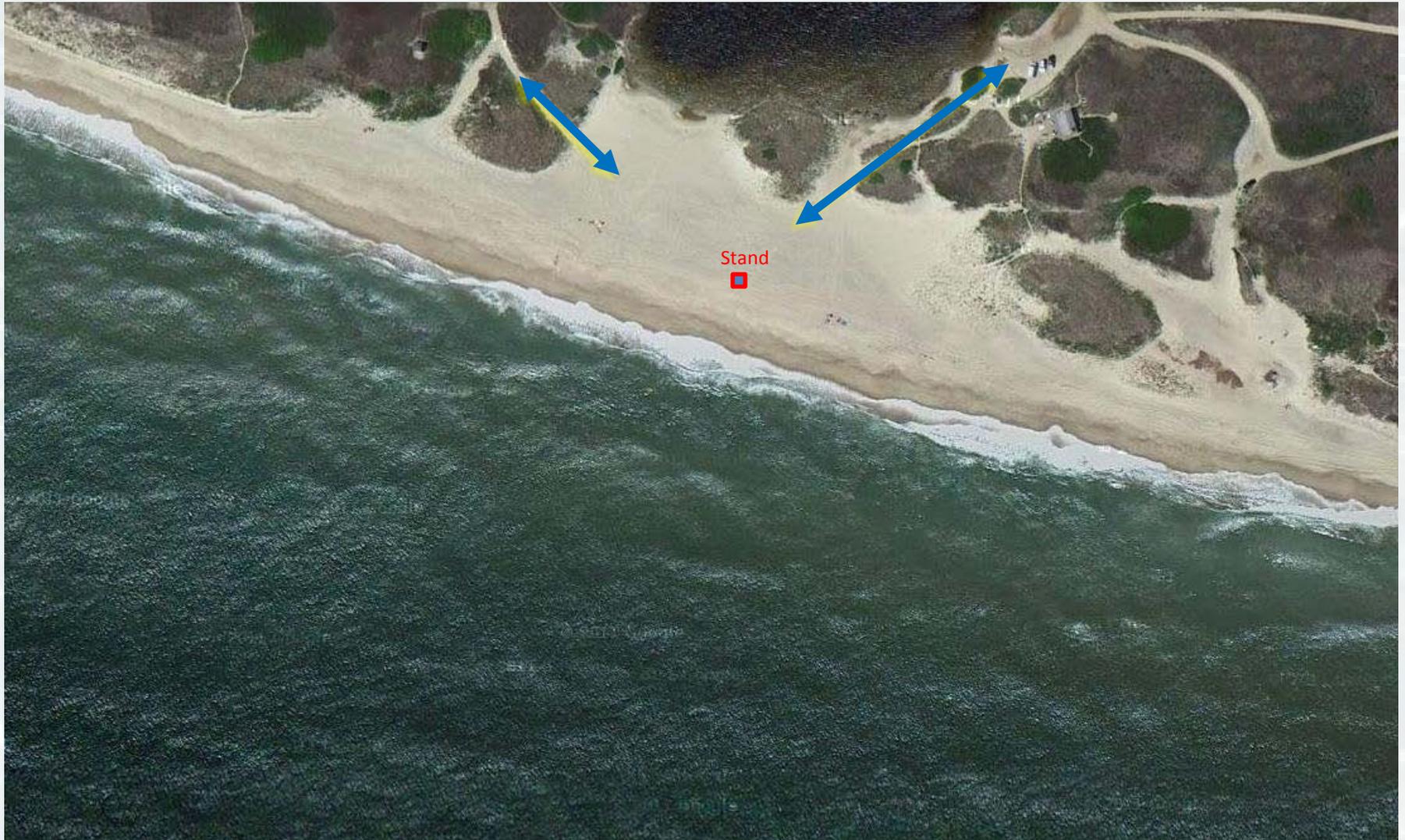


Hazards to expect:

Rip current, Shore break, Surfers, Large Crowds

Miacomet Beach – 3 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)



Hazards to expect:
Shore break, Rip Current

Surfside Beach – 5-6 Guards

(Emergency access in blue)



Hazards to expect:

Shore break, Rip Currents, Shoals, Large Crowds

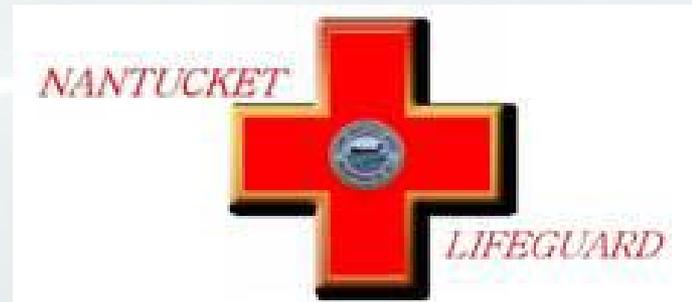


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Professional Response:

- The overall goal of professional response is to execute a coordinated effort to deal with the effects of potential events and responding to beach and/or water emergencies to assist in saving lives and property.
- Professional response relies on effective communications between all public safety responders. Communications will be directed through central dispatch at the Nantucket Police Department.
- Professional response is also guaranteed by understanding and maximizing all public safety responder's capabilities and areas of expertise.



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Professional Response:

Nantucket Police Department (NPD)/ATV Beach Patrols

- **Radio communications with the NPD on Marine-1**
- Provides law enforcement and general support
 - Phone: 508-228-1212
 - Emergency 911



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Professional Response:

Nantucket Fire Department (NFD)

- **Radio communications with NFD will be on Fire-1**
- Provides EMT response
 - Phone: 508-228-2323
 - Emergency 911



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Professional Response:

United States Coast Guard Station Brant Point

- Provides assistance in water based emergencies
- Contacted through Harbormaster Office Only



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Nantucket Lifeguard Program: where individuals come together as a team to provide Nantucket beachgoers the safest experience possible through Prevention, Preparedness and Professional Response.

