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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: David Soroka
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Weather Ready Nation Spring Seasonal Campaign,
national Break the Grip of the Rip! Awareness,
March-May,2015.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Sea Grant Program, and United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) are partnered in their support of the national Break the Grip of the Rip! Awareness Campaign as a part of the NWS Weather-Ready Nation Spring Seasonal Campaign, March-May, 2015. The campaign is dedicated to raising public awareness of the dangers of rip currents and other beach hazards.

Know Before You Go. Learn more about actions you can take that will keep you and your family safe at the beach go to www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov

- Before you leave for the beach, check the NWS official surf zone forecasts or beach advisories and closings link. You can also check water conditions before going to the beach by looking at the local beach forecast.

- Only swim at a beach with lifeguards. The chances of drowning at a beach with lifeguards are 1 in 18 million (USLA). Once at the beach, talk to the lifeguard or beach patrol. He or she is trained to detect dangerous currents and waves and know other water conditions, such as the water temperature. This information could save your life.

- Don't assume! Great weather for the beach does not always mean it is safe to swim or even play in the shallows. Rip currents often form on calm, sunny days.

- Learn how to spot a rip current at

www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov

- Rip currents aren't the only deadly beach hazard. Learn more about dangerous waves at the beach and why you should never turn your back on the ocean! Breaking waves at or near the beach have broken beachgoers necks leaving them quadriplegics,

-Know how to swim BEFORE you venture in. Swimming in a pool is NOT the same as swimming at a surf beach with crashing waves, winds and dangerous currents.

-Know what the beach warnings flags mean. Read the beach safety signs at the entrance to the beach. Once on the beach, look for beach warning flags, often posted on or near a lifeguard's stand. Also locate the life ring station.

-Besides dangerous currents and waves at the beach, you need to be aware of other beach hazards like lightning, sunburn and red tide.

For more information on beach hazards, please visit:

<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov>

<http://www.usla.org>

National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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