



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island  
National Seashore

7206 National Seashore Lane  
Berlin, Maryland 21811

410-641-1443 phone  
410-641-1099 fax  
[www.nps.gov/asis](http://www.nps.gov/asis)

---

## Assateague Island National Seashore

## News Release

Date July 18, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Regina P. Jones-Brake- 410-641-1443 x202

### **Water Fatality at Assateague Island National Seashore**

(Berlin, Maryland)- On Thursday July 17, 2008 a Pennsylvania man was found face down floating in the water north of the lifeguarded beach at the Virginia end of Assateague Island National Seashore. After CPR failed to resuscitate, the man was pronounced dead by Dr. Wolffe, Medical Examiner (State of VA). The cause of death has not yet been determined.

Recent weather as a result of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Bertha has resulted in extremely aggressive wave action along the mid Atlantic Coast, which includes New Jersey, Delaware Maryland and Virginia. It is not at this point clear if this contributed in yesterday's death.

"We are saddened by the loss of life and value all who visit our National Seashore and want to ensure enjoyable and safe surroundings. We want everyone to have a leisurely day at the beach but even beautiful beaches have dangers. Visitors to our lifeguarded beaches and any beach resort should pay particular attention to warning signs and flags that are posted near the swimming shorelines," stated Superintendent Scott Bentley.

When arriving at our beaches be aware of the following traditional (signs/flags) devices for providing information to beach and water use.

- Double Red - Protected beach is closed to the public
- Red Flags - High hazard. Rough conditions such as strong surf and/or currents are present. All swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. Those entering the water should take great care.
- Yellow Flags - Warning is indicated/Medium hazard. Moderate surf and/or currents are present. Marine life such as jelly fish may be present. Weak swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. For others, enhanced care and caution should be exercised.
- Green Flags - Normal Conditions. Conditions are calm. Normal care and caution should be exercised. Green flags will be considered when the protected beach operational phase is normal and there are no warnings to be posted. Visitors are to be advised that ocean conditions can vary along the shoreline; hazards such as marine life, deep water and seaward currents can suddenly appear. Visitors should be advised to swim in the lifeguarded area.

For more information on Assateague Island National Seashore, visit [www.nps.gov/asis/](http://www.nps.gov/asis/).

-NPS-