

Beach

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Szvitch.

In fact, medical responses have been the normal daily routine for lifeguards at the replenished beaches.

"One day in July, we had so many people injured and transported to the hospital that we got a call from the staff of Beebe Medical Center," said Coveleski. "They said they were running out of ambulances and emergency room space. They told us to put signs on the beach warning people.

"We kicked that idea around but decided against it, because from our experience, people rarely pay attention to signs. We decided to just keep swimmers informed that they should avoid standing in the surf-break zone and they should not body surf."

"It's bad this year, no doubt about it," said Dewey Beach Patrol Capt. Todd Fritchman. "We've had some real ugly wounds from people hitting rocks while body surfing. And we've had more spinal injuries than usual."

Fritchman said he would wait and see if next year the beach is flatter and less littered with sharp-

edged rocks and shells.

Despite the high number and severity of some of the injuries, Rehoboth Beach Patrol lifeguards said not one injured swimmer has expressed anger about the injury. None have said they'd never return to Rehoboth or Dewey beaches because of the injury they sustained this year, said lifeguard Coveleski.

"They always ask what has changed this year," Coveleski said. "When we explain that we had a replenishment project this year and it changed everything, they look around and then understand. Nobody has gotten mad about it."