

The Danger of Rip Currents

Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and past the line of breaking waves. Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves.

If you become caught in a rip current, yell for help and remain calm. Do not exhaust yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current, as you will tire quickly.



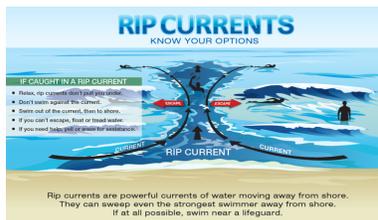
The risk of rip currents is low, however, life threatening rip currents may still occur especially near jetties, reefs, and piers.



Life threatening rip currents are possible.



Life threatening rip currents are likely. The surf zone is dangerous for all levels of swimmers. Stay out of the water.



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