

The president's office of the Formentera Council reports that yesterday marked the start of lifeguard and rescue service on Formentera beaches. The service extends from May 1 to October 31 and is funded by the administration.

Ten lifeguards took to their stations yesterday and another five will join the ranks at the start of June. June 15 marks the start of the season for rest of the crew (23 lifeguards in all), who will remain on duty until September 15. The crew will drop to 15 from September 15-30 and shrink to 10 for the month of October.

This year safety upgrades were performed on watchtowers at es Arenals, ses Illetes and Llevant, and a new tower was put in at es Pujols. The crew purchased two boats—one for ses Illetes and the other for Cala Saona—as well as rescue material.

Lifeguard and rescue staff completed refresher courses for some of the most frequent parts of the job, like reanimation and emergency preparedness.

Adapted and 'heart safe' beaches

Es Arenals and es Pujols beaches are both equipped to allow swimming for individuals with reduced mobility. The Council recommends calling ahead of time to request the service, which is available from 12 noon to 5.00pm (green flag hours) and can be reached by calling 609.768.506. Defibrilators are available everywhere lifeguard services are offered in case of cardiac arrest.

For information about sea conditions, visit www.platgesdebalears.com

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