

# Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®) 2.5

**Name of Product / Version:** Safe Beach Day — public website (<https://safebeachday.com>) **Report Date:** 2026-05-28 **Product Description:** Public-facing informational website (Safe Beach Day by Watchtower) providing beach safety conditions, real-time alerts, beach / county / state detail pages, an educational course, and a blog. Includes an interactive map on county and beach pages, a tide chart, embedded social-video on posts, and a third-party accessibility widget. **Contact Information:** [support@yourwatchtower.com](mailto:support@yourwatchtower.com) **Notes:** Safe Beach Day is **partially conformant with WCAG 2.1 Level AA due to third-party content** — the remaining non-conforming items are limited to embedded social-video players, whose accessibility is determined by the host platform. WCAG 2.1 Level A and AA were evaluated; Section 508 and EN 301 549 are covered by reference. Evaluation methodology and scope are documented at the bottom. This is a self-evaluation produced from industry-standard automated accessibility scanners plus targeted source-code review. No manual assistive-technology testing (NVDA / VoiceOver / switch / voice control) has been performed; criteria that require AT verification are explicitly marked **Not Evaluated**.

## Applicable Standards / Guidelines

Standard / Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 Level A	Yes
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 Level AA	Yes
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 Level AAA	No
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017	By reference to WCAG 2.0 A / AA
EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe	By reference to WCAG 2.1 A / AA

## Terms

- **Supports** — The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports** — Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support** — The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable** — The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated** — The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. Used here where manual AT testing was out of scope; flagged explicitly.

## WCAG 2.1 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with:

- EN 301 549 Chapter 9 — Web
- Revised Section 508 Chapter 5 — 501.1 Scope, 504.2 Content Creation or Editing
- Revised Section 508 Chapter 6 — 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation

**Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A**

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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<b>1.1.1 Non-text Content</b> (Level A)	Supports	Content images include descriptive alt text. Decorative imagery is marked as presentational. Inline SVG social icons use <code>aria-label</code> on the anchor. The tide chart canvas sets a descriptive <code>aria-label</code> . Map markers expose accessible names.
<b>1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</b> (Level A)	Not Applicable	No prerecorded audio-only or video-only content was identified on the pages tested.
<b>1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</b> (Level A)	Not Evaluated	Posts can embed third-party social-video. Captioning of any embedded videos depends on the source platform and on authoring practice.
<b>1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</b> (Level A)	Not Evaluated	Same as 1.2.2.
<b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships</b> (Level A)	Supports	Hidden infrastructure form fields are removed from the accessibility tree and each visible field is labelled. Map legend semantics use correct elements. Heading order is correct across templates.
<b>1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</b> (Level A)	Supports	DOM order matches visual order on every template tested.
<b>1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</b> (Level A)	Supports	No instructions rely solely on shape, color, location, or sound.
<b>1.4.1 Use of Color</b> (Level A)	Supports	Beach status (open / closed / caution / high risk) is conveyed by both color and text label. Links are globally underlined.
<b>1.4.2 Audio Control</b> (Level A)	Not Applicable	No auto-playing audio.
<b>2.1.1 Keyboard</b> (Level A)	Partially Supports	All interactive controls use native button, link, and input elements. Visible focus is implemented site-wide. The interactive map remains keyboard-operable; the disclaimer modal and cookie banner are operable but have not been exercised under manual keyboard testing.
<b>2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</b> (Level A)	Not Evaluated	Requires manual keyboard testing. No traps identified statically.
<b>2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts</b> (Level A)	Not Applicable	No single-character keyboard shortcuts are registered.
<b>2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</b> (Level A)	Not Applicable	No session timeouts.
<b>2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</b> (Level A)	Not Evaluated	Real-time alert refresh and the interactive map have not been exercised for animation-pause behavior.
<b>2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</b> (Level A)	Supports	No flashing content identified.
<b>2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</b> (Level A)	Supports	A "Skip to main content" link is implemented on every page template and targets the page's <code>&lt;main&gt;</code> landmark.

<b>2.4.2 Page Titled</b> (Level A)	Supports	Each page sets a unique <title>.
<b>2.4.3 Focus Order</b> (Level A)	Not Evaluated	Requires manual keyboard testing. DOM order appears reasonable.
<b>2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</b> (Level A)	Supports	Most links have descriptive text. Footer social icons use aria-label. Card cover-link wraps include the card title in the accessible name.
<b>2.5.1 Pointer Gestures</b> (Level A)	Supports	No multi-point or path-based gestures required outside of the interactive map, which exposes button-based zoom / pan equivalents and a list-view toggle on beach pages.
<b>2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation</b> (Level A)	Supports	Standard browser button behavior.
<b>2.5.3 Label in Name</b> (Level A)	Supports	Visible text is included in the accessible name for all interactive controls.
<b>2.5.4 Motion Actuation</b> (Level A)	Not Applicable	No motion-actuated functionality.
<b>3.1.1 Language of Page</b> (Level A)	Supports	<html lang="en"> is set on every page.
<b>3.2.1 On Focus</b> (Level A)	Supports	No context changes on focus observed.
<b>3.2.2 On Input</b> (Level A)	Supports	Both site search forms (header and home-state filter) include a visually-hidden submit button and explicit submit handling.
<b>3.3.1 Error Identification</b> (Level A)	Not Evaluated	Subscribe / request-a-beach flows were not exercised for error states.
<b>3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</b> (Level A)	Supports	All visible forms have associated <label> elements.
<b>4.1.1 Parsing</b> (Level A)	Supports	No duplicate IDs were reported by the scanners.
<b>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</b> (Level A)	Supports	Hidden form fields, search inputs, the tide chart canvas, embedded social-video iframes, and interactive map controls all expose accessible names and roles.

**Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA**

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<b>1.2.4 Captions (Live)</b> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	No live media.
<b>1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</b> (Level AA)	Not Evaluated	Same as 1.2.2.

<b>1.3.4 Orientation</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Layout is responsive; no orientation lock.
<b>1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Email and search inputs use autocomplete and type="search" / type="email" as appropriate.
<b>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</b> (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Body text, links, card subtitles, breadcrumbs, severity-text uses, and the "Start Here" course button have been remediated to meet 4.5:1. A small number of secondary headings, wave-icon glyphs on the county listing page, and the beach disclaimer paragraph remain slightly below 4.5:1 and are tracked for the next remediation pass.
<b>1.4.4 Resize Text</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Text uses relative units and remains readable at 200% browser zoom.
<b>1.4.5 Images of Text</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Logos are images of text (permitted exception).
<b>1.4.10 Reflow</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Single-column reflow at 320 CSS px is supported. The interactive map provides scroll / zoom rather than horizontal page scrolling.
<b>1.4.11 Non-text Contrast</b> (Level AA)	Supports	The keyboard focus outline contrasts strongly against all background colors.
<b>1.4.12 Text Spacing</b> (Level AA)	Supports	User-stylesheet overrides for line height, letter and word spacing, and paragraph spacing are honored on the templates inspected.
<b>1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus</b> (Level AA)	Not Evaluated	Tooltips / popovers were not exercised under hover / focus.
<b>2.4.5 Multiple Ways</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Site provides on-page search, an XML sitemap at /sitemap-index.xml, and hierarchical state → county → beach navigation.
<b>2.4.6 Headings and Labels</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Headings are present and hierarchical. All visible form fields have labels.
<b>2.4.7 Focus Visible</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Focus outline is explicitly defined for keyboard users and visible against all backgrounds tested.
<b>3.1.2 Language of Parts</b> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	All content is in English on the pages tested.
<b>3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</b> (Level AA)	Supports	Header and footer are shared layout components.
<b>3.2.4 Consistent Identification</b> (Level AA)	Supports	The same component library renders identically across pages.
<b>3.3.3 Error Suggestion</b> (Level AA)	Not Evaluated	Form error states were not exercised.
<b>3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal,</b>	Not Applicable	No legal, financial, or data-modification transactions occur on the public site.

<b>Financial, Data</b> (Level AA)		
<b>4.1.3 Status Messages</b> (Level AA)	Partially Supports	A live region is present for route-change announcements. Toast / snackbar status messages on the subscribe and request-a-beach flows have not been exercised.

### Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Not evaluated.

### Table 4: Mobile Web 2.1 AA

Same conformance as Tables 1 and 2; the site is responsive and was scanned at both desktop (1280x1024) and mobile widths.

## Revised Section 508 — Functional Performance Criteria (Chapter 3)

Criteria	Conformance	Remarks
302.1 Without Vision	Partially Supports	A third-party accessibility widget is loaded site-wide; beach-status text and map markers expose accessible names to assistive technology.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Supports	200% zoom and reflow work; body text and links meet 4.5:1.
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Supports	Status conveyed by text + icon as well as color.
302.4 Without Hearing	Not Applicable	No audio content.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Not Applicable	No audio content.
302.6 Without Speech	Supports	No speech-input requirement.
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Supports	Skip-to-content link implemented; large touch targets.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	Supports	No physical requirement beyond standard pointer / keyboard input.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	Plain language, consistent navigation, recovery via 404 page.

### Hardware (Chapter 4)

Not Applicable — software product.

### Software (Chapter 5)

Conformance to 501.1 / 504.2 is determined by the WCAG 2.1 A / AA tables above.

### Support Documentation and Services (Chapter 6)

Criteria	Conformance	Remarks
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602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Site provides a Privacy Policy, Terms of Service, and Cookie Policy in the footer; a third-party accessibility widget provides an in-page accessibility control panel.
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	Supports	A public Accessibility Statement is published at <a href="https://safebeachday.com/accessibility/">https://safebeachday.com/accessibility/</a> and links to this VPAT and a contact email.
602.4 Alternate Formats	Not Evaluated	
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Not Evaluated	
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Not Evaluated	

## EN 301 549 — Additional Requirements

Chapter	Conformance
4. Functional Performance Statements	See §302 mapping above
5. Generic Requirements	Heterogeneous — see WCAG tables
6. ICT with Two-Way Voice Communication	Not Applicable
7. ICT with Video Capabilities	Not Applicable (no live or interactive video on the site)
8. Hardware	Not Applicable
9. Web	See WCAG 2.1 A / AA tables above
10. Non-Web Documents	Not Applicable
11. Software	Not Applicable
12. Documentation and Support Services	See §602 above
13. ICT Providing Relay or Emergency Service Access	Not Applicable

## Known Limitations

- Embedded social-video players** (TikTok, YouTube) inherit the accessibility characteristics of the host platform. Captions and audio descriptions, where available, are controlled by the video source.
- A **third-party accessibility widget** is loaded site-wide. It is a third-party overlay; its own accessibility characteristics are out of scope of this evaluation.
- Manual assistive-technology testing** (NVDA, VoiceOver, switch, voice control) has not been performed in this evaluation cycle. Criteria 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.4.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.3, and 4.1.3 (dynamic state) are marked Not Evaluated pending that work.

## Evaluation Methods Used

- **Automated scan:** industry-standard automated accessibility scanners (axe-core and HTML\_CodeSniffer) executed against the WCAG2AA standard in a headless browser.
- **Source-code review:** internal review of layout, navigation, form, map, and chart components for accessibility-affecting markup and behavior.
- **Raw scan output** is retained internally and is available on request.

## Pages Tested

Template	URL
Home	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/">https://safebeachday.com/</a>
Static page	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/about/">https://safebeachday.com/about/</a>
Safety Tips	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/safety-tips/">https://safebeachday.com/safety-tips/</a>
My Alerts	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/alerts/">https://safebeachday.com/alerts/</a>
State template	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/state/florida/">https://safebeachday.com/state/florida/</a>
County template	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/county/losangelescounty/">https://safebeachday.com/county/losangelescounty/</a>
Beach template	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/venice-beach/">https://safebeachday.com/venice-beach/</a>
Blog Post template	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/post/rip-currents-what-they-are-and-how-to-stay-safe/">https://safebeachday.com/post/rip-currents-what-they-are-and-how-to-stay-safe/</a>
Alert Type template	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/alert-type/shark-advisory/">https://safebeachday.com/alert-type/shark-advisory/</a>
Course template	<a href="https://safebeachday.com/course/beach-safety-basics/">https://safebeachday.com/course/beach-safety-basics/</a>

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