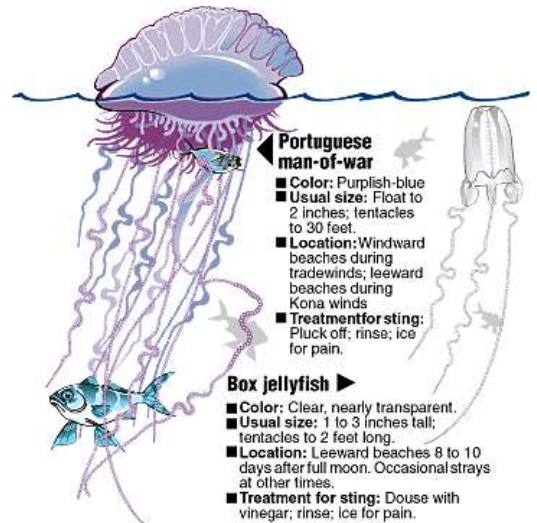


Jellyfish & Stingray Stings

Did you know that coastal North Carolina is home to several species of jellyfish and stingrays? While these fascinating creatures are fun to watch...**don't touch!**

Jellyfish

Found floating in the tides throughout the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway, jellyfish are non-aggressive, gelatinous marine animals surrounded by tentacles. They are usually on the surface of the water during dusk and dawn or may wash up on the beach. Symptoms of a jellyfish sting include pain, itching and rash. While most stings are not serious, seek immediate medical attention if you experience severe reactions, such as difficulty breathing, raised welts or chest pain, or if the sting involves a large area of body, face or genitals. For the pain associated with a jellyfish sting, soak or rinse the area in vinegar for 15 – 30 minutes.



Stingrays

Stingrays are bottom dwelling fish with wide bodies and long tails. While they are not usually aggressive towards humans, stingray stings tend to occur when unsuspecting beach combers accidentally step on the fish lying half-buried in the sand. Additionally, fishermen often get stung with attempting to unhook a stingray they caught by mistake. The tail of the stingray contains a barbed stinger with venomous glands. When stung, the sharp





barbs can cause lacerations or puncture wounds and the venom causes severe pain and swelling. Severe reactions often include nausea, vomiting, fever, chills, muscle cramps, tremors, paralysis and decreased

blood pressure. While hot water immersion can help relieve the pain; if stung go to **Dosher Hospital's emergency room immediately.**

Information provided by:

Dosher Memorial Hospital

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