

Looking Out

by Jackie Triff

Where is the best place to be if you are a lookout? As high as you can be! The higher you are, the further you can see.

Lookout at the Beach

Mickey the lifeguard looks out from a high tower at Jericho Beach in Vancouver. He looks out for swimmers and boaters in trouble. He can talk on a radio to lifeguards on the beach or in their boat.

This lifeguard watches over people swimming between the flags.



Image courtesy BMPOWER

for Danger

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A Coast Guard helicopter flies over Frobisher Bay.

If there is a boat in trouble way out at sea, a Coast Guard helicopter can get an even better view.

Lookout for Fires

Ron spends hot summer days sitting high up in a fire tower. All day he looks out across the land for signs of smoke, because smoke can mean there's a forest fire.

If he does see smoke, he calls the fire services to let them know where it is. Sometimes he contacts headquarters to ask them to send up a helicopter. Looking out from a helicopter gives an even better view of where the fire is, so firefighters can get to the fire before it spreads.



Fire towers are very tall so fire spotters can see far.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ You should always swim between the flags where the lifeguards can see you.
- ★ Call 911 if you see fire or someone in trouble in the water.
- ★ In the old days, before radar and electronic instruments were invented, boys were sent up the mast of tall ships. They would keep a lookout for land — and sometimes for pirate ships! — from the small basket called the crow's nest.
- ★ They even have lookout towers on the Great Wall of China.



Images: iStockphoto

