

## **SWIMMING POOL SAFETY**

The following information provides general guidelines and requirements for swimming pool safety.

### **Physical Control Measures**

- Designate and post diving areas.
- Water depths should be clearly marked.
- “No Swimming” or “No Diving” signs should be clearly posted where appropriate.
- Check application of non-skid surfaces where appropriate.
- Conduct regularly scheduled inspections of the facility, equipment and grounds by staff members.
- Ensure proper design, installation, and maintenance of pool, surrounding areas and diving equipment. (Check with the Florida Department of Public Health for the standards).



### **Staffing and Personnel Procedures**



- When possible, hire personnel with previous lifeguard experience.
  - Require CPR and first aid training of all staff members.
  - Conduct background verification of work experience and educational requirements.
  - Maintain copies of license, certificates, and application in personnel file.
- Lifeguards hired on a year-round basis are to maintain their certification by receiving annual re-training from a Lifeguard Instructor certified by the Red Cross. Employees that hold the position of Lifeguard II or Pool Supervisor and are certified Lifeguard Instructors are authorized to provide the training.
  - Lifeguards are to receive an annual training/assessment from the Pools Supervisor and/or the Aquatic Instructor. The training/assessment shall include, but is not limited to
    1. CPR skills (adult, infant, and child)
    2. Swimming skills
    3. Rescue training exercises from the lifeguard stand
    4. Training exercises with the backboard.

## Management of Participants, Equipment, and Emergency Situations

- Provide periodic training to personnel.
- Post safety rules in clear view at the entrance of the dressing rooms.
- Establish formal operational policies such as: one lifeguard per every 200 swimmers; lifeguard rotation; designation of specific responsibilities; and, assignment of appropriate swimming attire.
- Formal emergency procedures should include: conducting and documenting emergency response drills; posting emergency telephone numbers in clear view; and, designating responsibilities to staff members.
- Make available the appropriate life saving equipment and keep it properly maintained and easily accessible.



### Swimming Pool Safety Checklist

The following swimming pool safety checklist is for your reference only. It does not attempt to list all hazards and possible safety measures. Safety of your operations, premises, products, employees, and other persons is your responsibility. You should become familiar with and comply with all federal, state and local statutes, regulations, ordinances and codes applying to your situation(s). Seek any necessary legal advice from your attorney.

#### Items to Check

1. Is the pool/spa enclosed in its own fenced area, the fence being at least five feet in height?
2. Is the entrance to the pool controlled by self-closing/self-latching gates?
3. Are gates equipped with a padlock mechanism to secure the pool after hours?
4. Are pool ladders provided and properly anchored in both the shallow and deep ends of the pool?
5. Are pool depths stenciled around the inside edge and around the top edge of the pool?
6. Are pool depth markings written in both feet and metric measurements and is lettering at least four inches in height?
7. Is life saving equipment in the form of a ring buoy and shepherd's crook located within the swimming area and easily accessible?



8. Is there some form of visible depth separation markers between the shallow and deeper end of the pool?
9. Is the pool area equipped with a telephone to summon emergency medical help?
10. Are emergency phone numbers clearly posted on the phone?
11. Is the phone located outside of the pool office for after-hours accessibility?
12. Are standard pool rules printed and clearly posted on a sign in the pool area?
13. Do pool rules include, but are not limited to:



- a. Hours of operation;
- b. Children required adult supervision;
- c. No glass of any type allowed;
- d. Running/pushing/diving/from the pool edge not allowed;
- e. Shower before entering the pool;
- f. Posted emergency phone numbers;
- g. Warning: No lifeguard on duty or the hours the lifeguard is on duty are posted; and,
- h. No diving in shallow end.

