



**Environmental
Health & Safety**

Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Program

Table of Contents

1. Program Description	2
2. Scope	2
3. Definitions	2
4. Responsibilities	3
5. Program Components	3
6. Reporting Requirements	6
7. References	6

1. Program Description

The goal of this program is two-fold:

- The campus Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) serves as a resource person for the campus community for current information on Public Swimming Pool Safety.
- To provide reasonable and adequate guidance in reporting alleged outbreaks of illness due to swimming at one of the swimming facilities on campus property and to focus on the inspection of the campus swimming facilities on campus property.

2. Scope

This program applies to pools and spas located on campus property, including Stonehaven and Faculty Housing off Chicago Ave. The Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Program will protect public health by monitoring the campus swimming facilities for compliance with the California Health and Safety Code, thereby, providing a safe environment to enjoy recreational swimming on campus property.

3. Definitions

Pool Operator: the pool owner or a person the pool owner delegates to conduct public pool operation and maintenance. The public pool owner may delegate pool operator responsibilities to another person, but the pool owner shall retain responsibility for ensuring compliance with these regulations.

Public Pool: any public swimming pool, public bathhouse, public swimming place, and public bathing place that is or includes an artificial basin, chamber, or tank constructed or prefabricated with impermeable surfaces and such pools, bathhouses, and places are used or intended to be used for public swimming, diving, or recreational water activities.

REHS: Registered Environmental Health Specialist (i.e. Health Inspector)

Spa: a public pool that incorporates a water jet system, an aeration system, or a combination of the two systems used in conjunction with heated water.

Waterborne Illness: A disease that is carried or has been transmitted through water.

4. Responsibilities

The campus REHS enforces the requirements contained in the California Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations (Title 22) and California Building Code (Title 24). These requirements include:

Plan review to determine whether a new or remodeled pool complies with California Health and Safety Code, Title 22 and Title 24 requirements AND on-site construction inspections.

Unannounced inspections of pools and spas throughout the year to check that the fencing and gates are in good working order, to monitor the pool water for clarity and sanitizer level and to check for required safety equipment, warning signs and other safety issues.

Investigations of complaints from the public regarding unsafe or unsanitary public pools.

5. Program Components

5.1 Pool and Spa Operational Requirements

The following is a summary of some of the important health and safety issues that are enforced by EH&S.

- 5.1.1 Maintain the chlorine residual in pools between 1.0 and 10.0 parts per million free available chlorine, and in spas between 3.0 and 10.0 parts per million free available chlorine. Cyanuric acid readings should not exceed 100 ppm and shall be tested for by the operator at least once per month.
- 5.1.2 An approved working disinfectant device (automatic chlorinator) is required. Continuous feeding of disinfectant and pool filtration is required during the hours the pool and spa is available for use.
- 5.1.3 Pool operator is to test the disinfectant residual and pH of the pool and/or spa water a minimum of once per day while in use.
- 5.1.4 Pool operator is to maintain a written record of routine maintenance and repairs to the pool and spa at the pool/spa site. Data and records are to be maintained for at least two years for inspection by the REHS.
- 5.1.5 The pH is to be maintained between 7.2 and 7.8.
- 5.1.6 Pool and/or spa cannot be used if water is not clean and clear while the pool and/or spa is in use. Pool and/or spa must be closed if the bottom

of the pool and/or spa at the maximum depth is not clearly visible from the deck.

5.1.7 Drain covers need to be secured and removable only with tools and must be designed to prevent physical entrapment or a suction hazard.

5.1.8 Pool and/or spa water temperature cannot exceed 104°F.

5.2 Safety Equipment:

5.2.1 Safety and rescue equipment should be readily accessible at every swimming pool and spa. These include:

- Body hook permanently attached to a strong rescue pole at least 12 feet in length.
- Life ring attached to a 3/16-inch line long enough to span the maximum width of the pool (Minimum exterior diameter of ring should be 17 inches).

5.2.2 Safety signs (must be posted in plain view from the nearby deck). These signs include:

- Letters and numbers on all signs are to be no less than 4 inches high and are clear and legible.
- Maximum number of pool and/or spa users permitted for each pool is to be indicated.
- “NO DIVING” signs need to be posted in conspicuous places at pools and spas with a maximum water depth of 6 feet or less.
- “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY, Children under the age of 14 shall not use pool without a parent or adult guardian in attendance” sign needs to be posted where no lifeguard service is provided. Letters are to be at least 1 inch high.
- Diagrammed illustrations of artificial respiration procedures with text at least ¼ inch high.
- Emergency phone number of the nearest emergency rescue service. The “911” emergency number, which is in effect for police, sheriff, fire and paramedic response, is recommended. Numbers are not to be less than 4 inches high.
- Warning signs for a spa – “CAUTION” with the following language in letters at least 1 inch high:
 - ❖ Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering the spa.
 - ❖ Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.
 - ❖ Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs, or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.
 - ❖ Do not use alone.
 - ❖ Long exposure may result in hyperthermia, nausea, dizziness or fainting.

- “EMERGENCY SHUT OFF SWITCH” sign with letters at least one inch high is to be posted indicating location of spa emergency shut off switch.
- “KEEP GATE CLOSED” or “KEEP DOOR CLOSED” signs is to be posted on the exterior side of the gates and doors leading into the pool and spa enclosure.
- Diarrhea – a sign with letters 1 inch high is to clearly state that persons with diarrhea and persons who have had diarrhea within the prior 14 days shall not enter the pool and spa water.

Should you have any questions or require further information about these requirements, please call Environmental Health and Safety at (951) 827-5528.

5.3 Imminent Health Hazards:

This program focuses on the inspection of swimming, wading and spa pools used by the public. The campus REHS will conduct unannounced routine inspections of pools and spas throughout the year. Some potentially hazardous conditions could lead EH&S to order a public swimming, spa or wade pool closed. Immediate corrective action is needed for the following conditions:

- **Loose, damaged, or missing main drain covers.** Drowning and injuries have occurred when users became entrapped by the suction produced from the drain in the bottom of spas, wading pools, and swimming pools.
- **Pool water that is so cloudy or green that the main drain at the bottom of the pool is not visible from the deck.** Drownings and near drownings have occurred when children have fallen into a dirty, cloudy pool and could not be located in time to effect a rescue.
- **Nonfunctional recirculation system.** The recirculation system is designed to maintain the pool water in a clear, disinfected and bacteriologically safe condition. If this system is malfunctioning or has been placed out of service for any length of time, it is impossible to maintain good water quality in the pool, spa or wading pool. It is vital that pool water be maintained clear and disinfected.
- **The pool fencing/enclosure is in disrepair.** A pool that is not adequately fenced may be easily accessible to small children. Proper fencing is the primary means to prevent drowning by hindering access to the pool by small children. Changes to existing fencing or the installation of a new enclosure must receive approval from EH&S prior to the start of construction.
- **Human fecal contamination in the pool.** Outbreaks of disease have been associated with pool water contaminated with feces. When fecal matter is observed, the pool shall be immediately closed and the fecal matter removed. The pool shall be super-chlorinated, the water filtered for at least 24 hours and the filters backwashed prior to reopening the pool. This same procedure should be employed if a dead animal is found in the pool.

6. Reporting Requirements

If you have a complaint about a swimming facility or the locker rooms on campus, please contact Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) at the following telephone number (951) 827-5528. The campus Registered Environmental Health Specialist will contact you the next workday.

7. References

[California Health and Safety Code](#)

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Riverside County Department of Environmental Health](#)