

Public Swimming Pool Emergency Plan Development Guide

1. Introduction
2. Injuries
 - a. Life Threatening
 - b. Non Life Threatening
3. Pool Contamination
 - a. Physical
 - i. Leaves/sticks/other organic debris
 - ii. Floods
 - iii. Trash
 - b. Biological
 - i. Fecal
 - ii. Vomit
 - iii. Blood
 - c. Chemical
 - i. High/Low Chlorine
 - ii. High/Low pH
 - iii. Known Chemical Spill
 - iv. Unknown Chemical Spill
 - d. Animal
 - i. Pets
 - ii. Wild Animals
4. Internet Resources

Introduction

This guide was developed to assist pool operators and owners with development of procedures to handle the various kinds of incidents that can occur in and around swimming pools.

Note: This document is intended as a guide only. It is the responsibility of the facility owner/operator to follow all applicable Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations.

Injuries

- If an injury is life threatening, immediately call 911. Follow all instructions from the 911 operator.
- If an injury is severe, but not life threatening, emergency personnel should still be contacted to ensure that the injured receives prompt medical attention.
- If an injury is not severe, make sure that the injured person has access to first aid supplies (make sure your first aid kit is well stocked.) You should also keep a list of local physicians in case the injured requests medical attention. If you are exposed or potentially exposed to blood or bodily fluids at any time, be sure to follow the “**OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Guide**” (see internet resources.)

Pool Contamination

Physical

- Leaves and other environmental debris should be removed from the pool. No additional disinfection should be necessary.
- If a flood occurs, keep in mind that there will likely be biological contamination along with physical debris. In the case of major flooding, you should assume that your pool is contaminated and follow procedures for diarrhea contamination in “**Fecal Accident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff**” and bodily fluid contamination in “**Cleaning Up Body Fluid Spills on Pool Surfaces**”.
- Trash in the pool may contain biological contamination if the trash contains food or personal care items. Remove trash and follow above procedures for fecal contamination and bodily fluid contamination if necessary.
- If you are exposed or potentially exposed to blood or bodily fluids at any time, be sure to follow the “**OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Guide**”.

Biological

If contamination occurs in the pool, consult the following:

- For fecal contamination, follow the guide for “**Fecal Accident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff**”
- For vomit contamination, follow the guide for “**Vomit and Blood Contamination in Pool Water**”
- For Blood contamination, follow the guide for “**Vomit and Blood Contamination in Pool Water**”
- If contamination occurs on the pool deck/bath house/etc, consult the guide for “**Cleaning Up Body Fluid Spills on Pool Surfaces**”
- If you are exposed or potentially exposed to blood or bodily fluids at any time, be sure to follow the “**OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Guide**”.

Chemical

- If Chlorine is below 1ppm or above 10ppm, Bromine is below 2ppm and above 10ppm, pH is below 7.2, or pH is above 7.8 this can be hazardous to swimmers and the pool should be closed until the pool chemistry is properly adjusted.
- If a chemical spill occurs in the pool, close the pool immediately. Evacuate all persons from the pool area since chemical reactions can produce toxic gases. If it is a known chemical (chemical that you use at your facility), follow the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) instructions for cleanup of that chemical.
- If the spill is an unknown chemical, contact OSHA and/or a licensed professional for cleanup. Do not attempt to remove an unknown chemical yourself. Large spills may require you to contact 911 or other emergency personnel.

Animals

Pets should not be allowed in swimming pools. If you find pets in the pool, or your facility sponsors a “pet pool event”, follow the guide for **“SPECIAL EVENTS - DOG SWIMS AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS”**

If you find wild animals in the pool, follow the guide for:

“Raccoons and Pools”, “Birds and Pools”, or “Finding a Dead Animal in the Pool”

Do not attempt to capture live wild animals yourself. Contact a licensed professional. Any potential rabies exposure should be reported to the Health Department.

Internet Resources

“OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Guide”

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3186.pdf>

“Fecal Accident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff”

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/pools/fecal-incident-response-recommendations.pdf>

“Vomit and Blood Contamination in Pool Water”

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/vomit-blood-contamination.html>

“Cleaning Up Body Fluid Spills on Pool Surfaces”

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/resources/cleaning-body-fluid-spills-factsheet.pdf>

“SPECIAL EVENTS - DOG SWIMS AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS”

http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Dog_swims_at_public_swimming_pools.pdf

“Raccoons and Pools”

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/animals/raccoons-and-pools.html>

“Birds and Pools”

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/animals/birds-and-pools.html>

“Finding a Dead Animal in the Pool”

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/animals/dead-animals-and-pools.html>

OSHA Emergency Phone Number

1-800-321-OSHA (6742)