

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming is good exercise, fun and a popular activity. For some, it can be done year-round by kids, adults or swim clubs. When it comes to pool safety, lifeguards are the best accident prevention strategy, but parents, coaches or camp leaders can also provide supervision. Lifeguards are required at all licensed public facilities. Refer to Oregon Health Authority, Chapter 333 – Division 60 (OAR 333-060) for more details.

While lifeguards are important for pool safety, we also recommend the following best practices to keep staff and students safe.

- Establish procedures on the use of pool covers that state only staff or adults can remove or cover the pool. Notify staff and outside organizations of procedures. Always completely remove the cover before anyone enters the pool and have at least two people verify everyone is out of the pool before covering it.
 - Ensure proper risk transfer forms (i.e., hold harmless agreements, waivers and certificates of insurance) are completed when outside organizations use the pool.
 - Trained staff should inspect the pool area periodically for broken glass and other refuse, cracks in decking, cracks in pool bottom, defective spectator bleachers, lifesaving equipment, chemical storage and any other potential hazards. Maintain documentation of these inspections.
 - Ensure lifesaving equipment and first aid kits comply with OAR 333-060 and are easily accessible and operational.
 - Ensure a working phone is provided and is accessible for emergency purposes. Emergency information such as the location's address, phone number and emergency contacts should also be kept next to phones.
 - Develop and maintain required postings and signage in the pool area as noted in OAR 333-060.
 - Ensure lifeguards receive training to effectively enforce posted rules and manage emergency situations.
- Advise lifeguards, if outdoors, to wear sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 and wear a hat, visor and/or polarized sunglasses. Lifeguards should not be chewing gum during their shift.
 - Ensure you have accessible AEDs for emergencies.
 - Ensure pool areas can be properly secured to prevent unauthorized use. Check doors, windows, fencing and gates are in good working order.
 - Make sure to have a 6-foot-wide berth around the pool to allow lifeguards easy access and room for paths.



If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please reach out to the Risk Management Department at 800-285-5461 or at riskmanagement@sdao.com.