

# POOL NEWS YOU CAN USE



## Water Recreation Program: Introducing Crystal Nuno

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Please help us welcome Crystal Nuno to our team! She is replacing Niels Nicolaisen, who joined the health district's Solid & Hazardous Waste Program. Crystal has four years of experience in water recreation facility inspections in her home state of Montana. She's excited to get back into the work in Washington. If you see her around, be sure to introduce yourself!



Crystal Nuno, RS

## OVERVIEW:

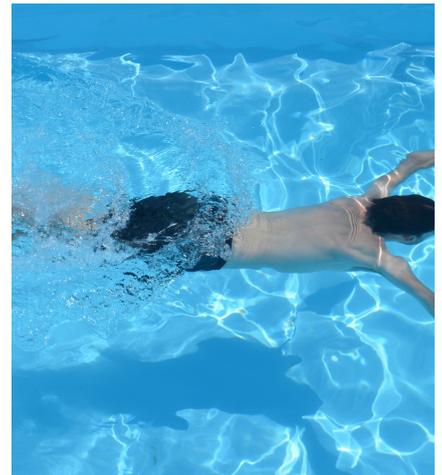
- Report injury and drowning
- Test emergency shut off
- Signage
- Testing your water quality
- Entrapment
- Emergency equipment:  
Telephones
- Facility modifications: When  
review is needed

As you gear up for your busy swimming season, we'd like to remind you about some important points to keep in mind that will help keep your swimmers safe and facility in compliance with state Water Recreation Facilities regulations (Chapter 246-260 WAC).

## Report injury & drowning

The owner/operator of a Water Recreation Facility must report any death, near drowning, or serious injury to the health district within 48 hours. A serious injury means someone has called for emergency aid and/or the person needs immediate medical treatment at a clinic or hospital.

Please call the Health District at (360) 728-2235 to report a death, near drowning, or serious injury.



## Test emergency shut off

Pool operators are required to test the emergency shut-off switch for their pool and/or spa at least twice every year to determine if it is properly operating.

## Signage

Pool facilities are required to post signs explaining pool rules in a conspicuous location. Limited-use pools where lifeguards are not present must notify users when first entering the facility.

Signage requirements are listed in WAC 246-260-121(5). You can view an online copy of the rules here: <http://leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/WACArchive/Documents/2013/WAC-246-260-CHAPTER.pdf>

Questions? Contact us! Call us at (360) 728-2235 and ask for the food inspector of the day.

## Testing your water quality

Washington State Recreational Water Facility Code requires that disinfectant and pH levels be measured at least once per day. If those levels are outside of the proper range, then they must be adjusted. Make sure you are using the right kind of reagents and follow the directions for water testing. Refer to the tables to below for allowable levels.

SWIMMING POOL	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Chlorine*	1.5	10
Chlorine w/ Cyanurate Acid	2.0	10
Bromine	2.5	10
pH	7.2	8.0

SPA & WADING POOL	MINIMUM	MAXIMIM
Chlorine*	3.0	10
Chlorine w/ Cyanurate Acid	3.5	10
Bromine	4.0	10
pH	7.2	8.0

\*The above is measured in free chlorine.

## Entrapment

Entrapment occurs when part of a swimmer's body becomes stuck to a pool or spa as a result of the powerful suction of the water circulation system, or a limb is inserted into a drain with a missing or broken cover. It is a serious potential hazard, particularly for those who cannot break away, such as children.

A potentially life-saving measure you can take is to make sure your pool or spa is free from entrapment hazards. There are 5 kinds of entrapment that you should be aware of.



1. Hair entrapment: Hair can become tangled or knotted in an outlet cover.
2. Limb entrapment: Arms or legs can get stuck in an outlet with a missing or broken cover, even when the pumps are turned off.
3. Body entrapment: Any part of the body that covers an outlet cover can be held down by the suction.
4. Evisceration/disembowelment entrapment: Sitting on an unprotected sump or an outlet with a broken or missing cover can cause injuries or disembowelment.
5. Mechanical entrapment: Fingers, toes, and items such as jewelry or a bathing suit can become entangled and stuck in a non-compliant drain or cover, even when pumps are turned off.

## ENTRAPMENT PREVENTION FOR OPERATORS

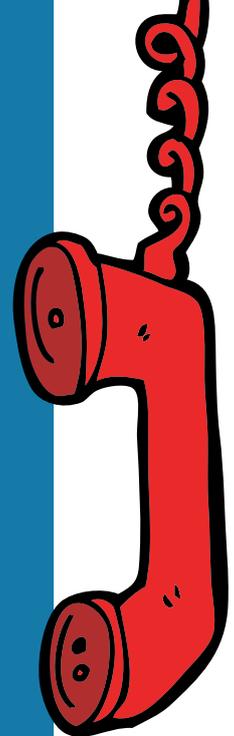
- ✓ Verify all suction outlets meet federal and state requirements.
- ✓ Never run pumps at higher speeds than approved.
- ✓ Maintain records of all suction outlet covers.
- ✓ Check covers *daily* to make sure they are not missing, broken, loose, or turned.
- ✓ Check your pool or spa's flow rate every day. Flow rate greater than normal is a suction hazard, and every main drain cover must be rated for 100% of the maximum recirculation flow rate.
- ✓ Cover maintenance:
  - Check the expiration date. Most covers are good for 5, 7, or 10 years from the date of installation.
  - If you're unsure when the covers were last replaced, replace them. Better safe than sorry.
  - Make sure to keep the outlet cover specifications every time you replace the cover.
- ✓ Do not alter designs without approval from the health district.

## Emergency equipment: Telephones

We've seen a slight uptick in facilities eliminating access to a telephone. The most common reason given for getting rid of the phone is that "everyone has a cell phone these days." While that may be true, it cannot be guaranteed that all of your swimmers will bring their cell phones with them to go swimming. Ensuring access to a telephone in order to call 9-1-1 during an emergency is still a state requirement (Chapter 246-260-041 (11)(a)(b) WAC and Chapter 246-260-051(5)(a)(b) WAC).

Not allowing access to a phone will result in a critical violation for your facility. If your facility is out of compliance, please make sure to come into compliance as soon as possible. Being able to call 9-1-1 can save a life!

Limited use pools and spas (such as those at apartments and hotels/motels) must have a telephone accessible within one minute of the pool or spa. General use pools and spas (all other pools not classified as a limited use pool) must have a telephone within the facility itself. If you aren't sure which type of pool you operate, call us at (360) 728-2235 and we'll help you out!



## Making changes to your facility: What you need to know

Pools and spas are carefully engineered, reviewed, approved, and constructed to make sure that they're safe and meet code. The entirety of the pool or spa's design is a delicate balance of numerous factors and modifications made to the facility could upset the balance to make the body of water unsafe for swimmers.

Changes made to the facility that could upset the balance must go through review with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). We also recognize that routine maintenance is required to keep your pool or spa up to snuff. But when is it routine maintenance and when does a change or upgrade need to go through review?

### Routine maintenance examples

- Replacing like-for-like pool equipment parts that became defective with new parts
- Replacing filter media & filter elements
- Minor repair work, such as for walking surfaces
- Replastering basin with same color
- Pump replacement- Same manufacturer & model
- Main drain cover replacement- Same manufacturer & model
- Repairing fence with materials of the same specification

### Needs DOH review

- Replacing equipment with a different model (pump, filter, feeders, main drain covers or sump, etc.)
- Adding/replacing diving board or platform
- Major plumbing change
- Changes to main drain construction or design
- Changing barrier design, construction, or material
- Disabling skimmer equalizer lines
- Changing basin color
- Changing basin shape or dimensional design
- Lighting changes
- Installation of Safety Vacuum Relief System
- Locker room, restroom, or shower room changes

If you aren't sure, call us at (360) 728-2235 and we'll steer you in the right direction!