

SUBJECT: Pool Safety

REGULATORY STANDARD: None

DATE: March 2000

The Montana Tech swimming pool, which resides in the HPER-complex on Park Street, is a multi-use facility that caters to the students of Montana Tech, as well as faculty and staff. Some activities are open to the general public. Various aquatic activities take place within the pool arena such as public swimming, swimming competitions, scuba diving, and kayaking.

General Pool Safety

The following rules govern behavior of pool users and should be posted in areas of high visibility:

- Back flips are not allowed.
- Please walk on the swimming pool deck.
- No one is allowed to enter the pool under the influence of alcohol, hallucinogens, medications, drugs, etc.
- A shower before entering the pool is recommended to keep pool water clean.
- Have long hair securely pinned up, or wear a bathing cap when swimming.
- Do not enter the pool if you have an open sore or an infectious disease.
- No smoking in pool area or in the locker rooms.
- No eating in pool area.
- No rowdy behavior is permitted.
- Shallow diving into pool depths less than 12ft. is strictly prohibited.
- A lifeguard is on duty whenever the pool is open.

Lifeguard Duties/Certifications

Lifeguards have no other duties other than the supervision of swimmers. They are current in the following certifications:

- Life guard certification
- Basic First Aid
- CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation)

Housekeeping

Good housekeeping should be maintained at all times. The following guidelines should be followed:

- Pool deck materials should be kept clear of items someone might trip over.

- Access to an emergency shut-off switch, distribution panels, or alarm supply boxes must not be blocked.
- Trash should be kept in appropriate receptacles.
- Pool deck is sanitized regularly.

Extension Cords

Extension cords that are used within the swimming pool complex must be rated as waterproof and have waterproof plugs. The extension cords should be kept clear of the walkways on the deck and be securely fastened to a non-floor surface. When cords are not in use, they are to be properly stored.

Steps, Ladders and Handrails

The steps of ladders leading into and from the swimming pool must be of a non-slip design. Additionally, the ladders should provide a handrail to provide support or act as an emergency grip. Swimmers should always maintain three points of contact with the ladder when climbing in or out of the pool.

Diving Board & Starting Blocks

Use of the diving board and starting blocks is prohibited unless swimmers are under the direct supervision of a lifeguard, instructor or coach.

Pool Maintenance

Facility maintenance staff maintains the Montana Tech swimming pool. The staff regularly monitors the pH, water temperature, air temperature, chlorine, turbidity, backwash, bacteria tests, and other chemicals (CO₂ and Algaecide). The maintenance records are logged and available upon request. Chemicals are handled safely and stored in a safe, protected, and locked area.

Chlorine Disinfectant

The swimming pool is equipped with a chlorinator, which meets the following standards:

1. The chlorine and the subsequent equipment are kept separate in a well-ventilated room.
2. The chlorine cylinders are secured to prevent falling.
3. Chlorination equipment is operated by or under the supervision of personnel (Maintenance or HPER director) experienced with operation of such equipment.
4. In the event of an emergency, the fire department must be called to respond. The caller must inform the fire department of the chemical hazard.

Emergency Telephone

The emergency telephone located at the west end of the pool should be kept clear of obstructions and debris. An emergency phone roster is posted by the phone.

Rescue Equipment

Rescue equipment must be kept in good working order and are stationed near lifeguard stations. The types of equipment that are readily available include a throw-ring, pull bar, rescue tube, and a backboard. All lifeguards are familiar with the function of each of the rescue devices and how to use them appropriately. Lifeguards should report any damaged or missing equipment to their supervisor.

Emergency Protocol

Water Emergencies

In the event of a water emergency, the following plan is to be followed:

1. Rescue distraught swimmer.
2. Be calm, analyze the situation carefully and give appropriate first aid, using gloves and CPR mask as necessary.
3. Have a fellow lifeguard or pool patron call 911 if the swimmer is unconscious or if the lifeguard needs assistance.
4. Notify campus security of emergency (call 4357).
5. Determine the identity of the victim if possible at this time.
6. Clear patrons from area, if necessary.
7. The on-duty lifeguard must fill out an incident/injury report, which is available at the HPER front desk. The incident report is then sent to the personnel office.

If a bleeding incident occurs, lifeguards administering first aid must wear protective gloves. The gloves are available in the basic first aid kit.

Fire Emergencies

When the fire alarm sounds, all occupants of the HPER complex must evacuate the building.

Those using the pool area must evacuate through the outside (south) door, not into the hallway or locker rooms. If the outside temperature is cold and the fire or emergency is not immediately threatening that area, gather by the exit door until further instructions are given.

Once out of the building, all employees and users of the complex should gather in the grassy area east of the building, as far from the building as possible. Account for all employees and students. If you suspect someone is still in the building, notify the emergency responders immediately of their possible location in the building.

Biological Hazards Prevention

To prevent a biological hazard to the pool patrons or the lifeguards, pool users are asked to take a cleansing shower in the nude, using warm water and soap. Additionally, for the

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safety of the lifeguards, protective gloves and a CPR mask are available for administering first aid.

If someone bleeds in the pool deck or shower area, the lifeguard should don gloves and clean it up with paper towels. The waste should be placed in a biohazard disposal bag available from the trainers in the HPER facility. The waste can be given to the trainers for proper disposal. The area must then be cleaned with a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and left for 10 minutes before cleaning up.