

USMS Open Water Safety Webinar Series



Staffing for Safety



Staffing for Safety

- Event Director vs. Safety Director
- The Role of EMS
- Course “monitor” placement and numbers
- Non-motorized vs. motorized rescue craft
- Safety Staff pre-race briefing
- Safety “monitor” training
- Safety gear



Safety Director

- Must work “hand-in-hand” with the Event Director
- EMS
- Monitors
- Training
- Equipment
- Communication



EMS Should be on Site



Lifeguards are not Paramedics

- Trained EMS responders can transport with advanced care equipment.
- They can administer life saving drugs.
- They can easily procure additional resources, mutual aid.
- Local EMS are already familiar with the venue, conditions, types of potential accidents and injuries.

Who Monitors the Course?

- Lifeguards versus Course Monitors

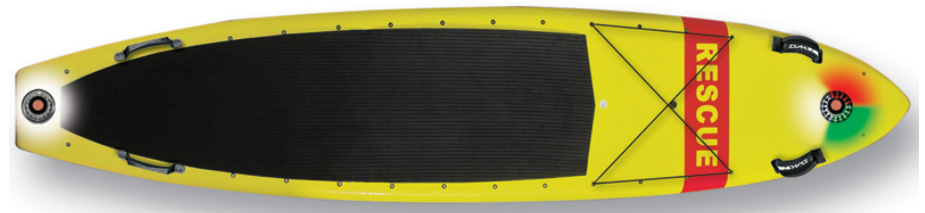


Who Monitors the Course?

- Lifeguards versus Course Monitors



Non-motorized vs. Motorized Rescue Craft



Types of Non-motorized Craft



Motorized Watercraft

MANDATORY

- All motorized craft used in conjunction with sanctioned open water events must have propeller guard(s) installed for the duration of the event OR each vessel must have a designated “swimmer monitor” whose primary duty is to keep the boat clear of swimmers.

Examples of allowable propeller guards



7/20/2014



Example of disallowable propeller guard



Exceptions to mandatory propeller guard requirements

- Boats owned and operated by or on behalf of Coast Guard, police, fire and rescue, or other government agencies;
- Boats at anchor from start to finish of the sanctioned event with engines off, while any swimmer is in the water;
- Boats with propellers fore of the rudder (e.g. “inboard motors”);
- Boats with a designated “swimmer monitor”

Boats with propellers fore of the rudder can be used provided:

- These boats do not run directly on the designated swim course.
- For events requiring personal escort craft, water craft with inboard motors may be allowed on the course provided their engines are off when any swimmer is within 20 feet of the propeller and during relay exchanges. For feedings the swimmer may approach within 5 feet of the bow or side of the boat with engines engaged.

Watercraft and Operators Insurance Coverage

MANDATORY

- Motorized watercraft and/or watercraft operators performing any role in the operation of the event shall produce “proof of insurance”. Proof must submitted to the Event Director at least 24 hours prior to the event and kept on file for one year.



Swimmer Monitor

- Every motorized craft used on the event course should have a “swimmer monitor” on board whose sole responsibility is to monitor swimmers and keep the boat operator apprised of the location of any swimmers proximate to the boat.



Safety Staff Pre-race Briefing



- Equipment
- Event Procedures outlined
- Positioning
- General assistance duties
- Response and care duties
- Communication
- Evacuation
- Cancellation

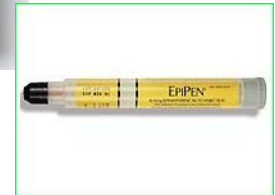
Equipment / Safety Gear

- Lifeguards use rescue tubes...



- Not just EMS can use:

- AED
- Oxygen
- Back Board
- Epi Pen



Event Procedures

- Warm-up?
- Swimmer seeding or heats
- The course
- Positioning of monitors
- Starting procedures and signals
- Finishing procedures
- Communication on the course

Course Monitor Placement



7/20/2014

Safety “Monitor” Training



Course Monitor

General Assistance Duties

- Attend the pre race briefing and training
- Monitor swimmers on the course
- Communicate with other monitors
- Maintain continual surveillance of the swimmers
- Make contact with swimmers in need of assistance and call for help
- Know the emergency plan and their role

Response and Care Duties

- Clear response and care expectations are essential
- The care they provide depends on their level of training
- Be able to communicate if help is needed
- Know how to stabilize the swimmer and/or call for additional assistance
- Know when to summon advanced care

Swimmer Supervision Basics

- Accounting of Swimmers, number in versus number out...
- What is your Response and Care Objective?
- Recognition of tired or distressed swimmers



The “Big Eye” Theory

- “Layers of Protection”
- “Active Supervision”
- Someone watches everyone



Communication

- Identifiable people to communicate with
- Public Address System
- On or in Water Communication
 - Whistle, Air Horn, Flag, Hand Signals
- Above or Out of Water Communication
 - Radios, Phones, Flares



Emergency Action Plans

- Keep it easy and build it to the level of your staffing
- Consider the size of the course
- Consider the types of craft you are using
- Consider potential conditions when planning
- Take your response and care objective into consideration

Emergency Action Plans cont.

- Practice “pull outs” and “transfers” if possible
- Know your evacuation options
- Have EMS on site
- If you use EMS get more EMS, have someone there the whole time.
- Document it all, fill out reports and fill with all appropriate parties.

Thank You

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