



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®  
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

*Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

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## Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Waterfront Standard

### Supervised Waterfront Operations Equipment Standard

#### Standard

Owners and Operators of supervised waterfronts should ensure that appropriate equipment is available at all times for use by lifeguards on duty.

#### Definitions

- **Last seen marker:** A small buoy with a line and anchor that is used to mark the location where a person was last seen in the water.
- **Lifeguard:** a person with a current National Lifeguard certification appointed by the owner or operator to supervise bather safety while bathers are on the deck or beach, or in the pool or body of water.
- **Owner:** The person or corporation who is the owner of an aquatic facility.
- **Operator:** The trained individual designated by the owner to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of an aquatic facility.
- **Supervised Waterfront:** the designated area of a waterfront where certified staff provide safety supervision as part of the operations.

#### Rationale

Lifeguards who supervise waterfront areas should have equipment that allows them to effectively supervise the designated area and respond appropriately in emergency situations.

#### Implementation

The following equipment should be available and present at all times, in good working order, checked daily for breakdowns or faults, and easily accessible in case of an emergency:

- Lifeguard uniforms readily identified as such. This clothing should not restrict physical movement or emergency response time. UV protection, polarized sunglasses and hat are also included as part of the patrol member's personal equipment.
- An elevated tower or lifeguard chair at least 1.8 meters above water level. The chair location should provide reasonable access to the water in the event of a rescue.
- One buoyant rescue aid attached to a shoulder loop with a 6 mm line at least 1.6 m in length for each Lifeguard/Beach Patrol member on duty.
- One pair of binoculars.
- A last seen marker with 25 m of rope and anchor attached.
- Masks, snorkels and fins available for searches.
- A paddleboard (rescue board), when any part of the patrolled area is more than 25 m from shore.
- A rescue boat suitable for the specific location when any portion of the patrolled area is more than 75 m from shore.
- A spineboard with suitable strapping for motion restriction and removal purposes.
- A cellular phone (inside a waterproof bag) is recommended where telephone landlines are not available.
- Due to the distance of most waterfront sites from Emergency Medical Service response, consideration should be given to additional emergency equipment, particularly oxygen equipment and an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Signs that are posted and clearly visible to patrons indicating the hours of supervision, any hazardous conditions, the latest E.coli counts, current water temperature and whether lifeguards/beach patrol are on or off duty.
- A first aid kit with the following supplies, in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the specific site and that meets applicable legislative requirements for their jurisdiction. Items in a first aid kit could include:
  - Barrier devices: protective gloves and pocket face mask for rescue breathing
  - Triangular bandages, bandage strips, compress gauze pads, rolls of gauze conform bandages, eye dressings, adhesive tape
  - Emergency blankets or wrap
  - Heat and cold packs
  - Safety pins
  - Tweezers
  - Splinting material
  - Bio-hazard or waterproof waste bag
  - Incident reports, pen and paper
  - Thermometer
  - Saline solution or access to clean water and disposable drinking cups
  - Hand cleaner solution
  - Flashlight or penlight
  - Mild antiseptic soap solution, mineral oil and calamine lotion
  - Table salt for leaches
  - Glucose, sugar or candy

## References

- Lifesaving Society Canada. Alert: Lifeguarding in Action. Second Edition. Ottawa, June 2012
- Lifesaving Society Ontario. Waterfront Safety Guidelines. Revised Edition, November 2011 Copyright, 2011 by the Royal Life Saving Society Canada.
- Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters. Waterfront Safety Guidelines, Revised June 2005
- United States Lifesaving Association. Guidelines for Open Water Lifeguard Agency Certification. Revised November 2001
- Lifesaving Society Alberta and Northwest Territories Branch and Lifesaving Society Ontario Branch. Canadian First Aid Manual. April 2005 Thirteenth Printing January 2015 Copyright, 2005 by the Royal Lifesaving Society Canada.

## Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 22 June 2020.

## Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatics industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards, in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards, in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning.