

# A Survey of Hotels in Langkawi Island, Malaysia, on the Need for Lifeguards

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## MALAYSIA



# LANGKAWI ISLAND



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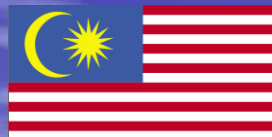


# LANGKAWI ISLAND





## MALAYSIA



**In 2008 – 2009: A total of 284 drowning cases were reported in national newspapers**  
(165 deaths in fires in last 2 years : Fire & Rescue Dept. data)

**46% of drowning cases occurred in the sea**  
**39% of drowning cases occurred in rivers**  
**3.5% of drowning cases occurred in pools**

**MALE : FEMALE 5 : 1**

**37.6% < 18 years**

**65.0% < 30 years.**

## A Survey of Hotels in Langkawi Island, Malaysia, on the Need for Lifeguards

### MATERIALS and METHOD

**STUDY DESIGN:** Structured Questionnaire,  
Telephone Interview of  
Human Resource & General Mgrs,  
Guest Relation Officers

**STUDY POPULATION:** 34 Hotels/Motels in Langkawi  
identified in the Yellow Pages



## A Survey of Hotels in Langkawi Island, Malaysia, on the Need for Lifeguards

### RESULTS

1. 20 (59%) of the 34 hotels/motels had swimming pools
2. Only 38% of these pools had lifeguards



## A Survey of Hotels in Langkawi Island, Malaysia, on the Need for Lifeguards

### RESULTS

3. 80% of those with pools were < 100m from the beach (16 hotels)
4. 11% of those with pool lifeguards also had beach lifeguards (2 hotels)



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### RESULTS

5. Hotel pools with lifeguard services hired 2 – 4 full time or 1 – 6 part time lifeguards
6. All the lifeguards had Bronze Medallion Certs and were CPR trained



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### RESULTS

**QUESTION:** Please rank from 1 (not needed) to 10 (definitely needed), the need for

1. Beach lifeguards: 7 – 10
2. Pool lifeguards: 1 - 10 (44% ranked < 5)  
2 GMs said “No lifeguard is required for pools < 1.4m deep”



## Most Hotels Don't Require Lifeguards

New Straits Times, June 16, 2005

“ Local authorities require hotels and resorts with swimming pools deeper than 1.5 metres to have a lifeguard on duty. But most hotel pools are less than this depth ”

Malaysian Association of Hotels Vice-President Ivo R. Nekvapil.

“ Most hotels did not have lifeguards as their pools were less than 1.5 metres deep ”.

Malaysian Association of Hotel Owners executive director



## A Survey of Hotels in Langkawi Island, Malaysia, on the Need for Lifeguards

### RESULTS

**QUESTION:** Who should provide these lifeguards?

- 50%:** Hotels themselves
- 32%:** Local Council
- 18%:** Ministry of Tourism



# A Survey of Hotels in Langkawi Island, Malaysia, on the Need for Lifeguards

## DISCUSSION

1. Obligation to protect patrons
2. Lifeguard's presence deters dangerous behaviors
3. Ignorance – inform & educate!
4. Evidence based recommendations
5. Collaborate with interested parties, eg. Hotel Associations, Local Councils  
Ministry of Tourism



**“An advertised lifeguard on duty increases the hotel's liability in the event of a drowning or severe accident”**

**“Staffing should favour the use of pool attendants as opposed to lifeguards”**

**“A sign saying ‘Pool open – No Lifeguard on Duty. Swim at Your Own Risk’ is enough”**



**Professional Management of Housekeeping Operators 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2008.  
Thomas J. A. Jones**



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## Questions & Comments



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TERIMA KASIH

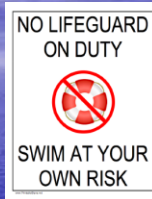
GRACIAS

sukriya

ARIGATO

MERCI ευχαριστώ

GRATIA



THANK YOU

XIE XIE

kam sah hamnida

NANDRI

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