
Out of position

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Organization

The Royal Lifesaving Society has lead this research and resulting modification of practices.

Practice

Owner and operators of supervised aquatic facilities have improperly positioned lifeguards which in some cases has led to reduced safety in these facilities and sometimes major incidents.

Why need for work

By establishing criteria for the placement of lifeguards and identifying common mistakes operators make in their placement, operators can reduce the likelihood of poor positioning and enhance safety in their facilities.

Need

There is a need for this work because poor positioning of staff is often one of the contributing factors in water related incidents. Staff are either stationed poorly or caught out of position which lead to an incident because staff fail to witness an incident.

Aims of work

To identify the common mistakes made by operators and establish factors in successful placement of supervisory staff.

Target

Owner/operators of aquatic facilities and trainer of lifeguarding personnel. This work impacts all agencies and communities that provide supervisory personnel.

Method

This presentation will identify factors that need to be communicated to supervisory personnel and training agencies so that they are able to focus their efforts and education on placement of personnel. Common mistakes will reinforce the appropriateness of this information.

Results

Modifications to national programs, literature have occurred. In addition, operators have modified their training and procedures for facility supervision. Continued education of operators is still required.

Discussion

By using additional examples and educating operators we will reinforce the importance of this practice. The challenge is to ensure all facilities undergo this evaluation and reassign if required their supervisory personnel. Often if nothing is happening(incidents) then operators fail to conduct this evaluation until it is too late.

Conclusion

Lifeguarding personnel are often out of position and poorly stationed. Several factors have lead to these poor decisions and real life examples will reinforce these poor decisions. Positioning criteria will be reviewed.

Session Description

One of the common mistakes made in pool or waterfront operation is the improper positioning of lifeguards during recreational swim activities. Whether it's at a pool or lifeguarded waterfront this session will review the Life Saving Society Positioning Checklist that will help supervisory personnel evaluate lifeguard positioning. A variety of influencing factors (glare, swim testing, activities, design, etc.) will be discussed and a real life example will be used to illustrate this application.

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