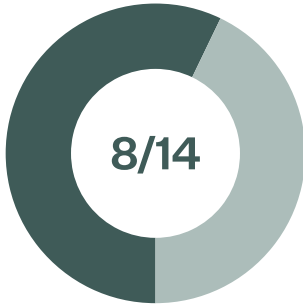
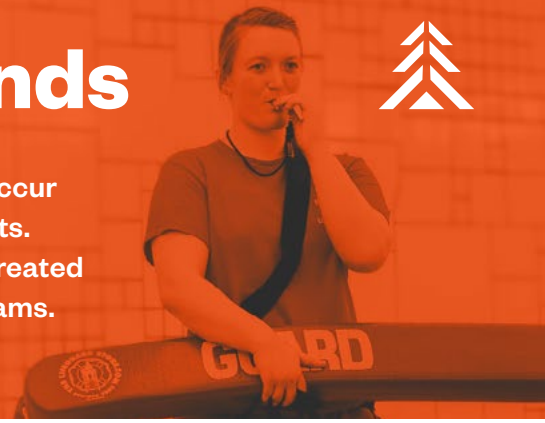


2018 Aquatic Safety Trends



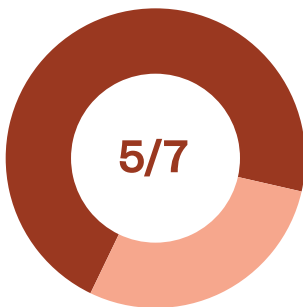
Each year, Redwoods investigates all unconscious drowning events that occur amongst our insurance customers. In 2018, we looked into 14 such incidents. Our study identified three key areas for improvement, from which we've created questions you can ask yourself regarding the safety of your aquatic programs.



8 out of 14 incidents involved improper lifeguard positioning

To save lives, lifeguards must be able to see everything

1. Can my lifeguards see their entire area of responsibility from their position?
2. Have I validated my lifeguards' zones through a zone certification process?
3. When faced with environmental obstructions, do I see my lifeguards repositioning to the best location to improve visibility?



5 out of 7 non-swimmer incidents did not have proper swim-testing policies in place

Rigorous swim-testing policies are crucial to keeping swimmers safe

1. Are *Test. Mark. Protect.* policies being consistently implemented in all pools and waterfront locations that are in use?
2. Do all of my staff, members and leadership clearly understand our swim-testing policy?
3. Do my lifeguards enforce these rules, even when challenged by others?



Improper lifeguarding skills were a contributing factor in every single incident

Training and practice are non-negotiable when lives are at stake

1. Are my guards singularly focused on their zone of protection and aggressively scanning at all times? Do my guards know what it means to aggressively scan?
2. Do my guards walk the entire perimeter and perform top to bottom scans when they rotate positions?
3. Does my aquatic staff practice basic emergency skills, including airway management, CPR and correct sequence of events?

Creating safer aquatic programs

Here are four practical strategies you can implement to help improve safety at your pool.



Zone certification

Be sure your facilities undergo a zone certification process at different times of the day/year and during different programs to eliminate all blind spots. Glare can occur from the sun, windows, lighting and white/light colored objects on the pool deck.



In-service training

Schedule trainings for the whole year and offer your staff multiple opportunities to attend them. Make in-service training as realistic and dynamic as possible. And practice with the number of guards you typically have on duty—even if that means practicing a single-guard rescue.



Improving lifeguard skill performance

Practice CPR on a real person, so that guards can demonstrate proper body positioning for compressions. Conduct monthly drills of your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) from start to finish, keeping different scenarios and potential variables in mind.



Internal auditing

Implement a variety of documented observations at your pool—including silhouette and EAP drills, CPR skills, equipment, rotations and policies. These observations should vary in type and how they are executed. Be sure to address any incorrect behaviors immediately.

If you have any questions about how to improve safety in your aquatic programs—or if you need support implementing any of these strategies—be sure to reach out to your Redwoods consultant.