Welcome to Pool Season 2011!

Maintaining a swimming pool can be challenging, even for the most experienced operator. Balancing water chemistry, checking barriers, inspecting emergency equipment...the list is long and very detailed. We can help!

This year Spokane Regional Health District's Water Recreation Program will send out frequent emails aimed at giving you the information you need to operate a safe and healthy pool or spa. While we will cover a variety of topics, our main focus will be on water chemistry and emergency equipment (including emergency shut-off switches and phones, first aid kits, etc.). Why? Because...

In 2010:

- 89% of violations cited that resulted in a pool closure were related to poor water quality.
- 91% of all critical (red) violations cited were related to either poor water quality or inadequate emergency equipment.

Learn how to keep your swimmers safe and healthy this summer while avoiding costly ($170) reinspection fees! Follow our tips for operating your pool violation-free.

Get your pre-opening checklist...

Here's a pre-opening checklist to get you started:  

More detailed information about some of the items on the
checklist can be found at: www.srhd.org/services/wr-docs.asp

If you have any questions or want to learn more, call Spokane Regional Health District’s Water Recreation Program, (509) 324-1560, ext. 4, or visit our web page at www.srhd.org/services/waterrec.asp

See you this summer!
Have a safe swimming season

Having the proper emergency equipment available is one of the best ways to have a safe swimming season.

**Required safety items are:**

- A reaching pole at least 12 feet long with a double-crook life hook.
- A reaching pole at least 12 feet long for every 1500 square feet of pool surface area.
- A throwing buoy, throw-robe bag, or other similar device with a rope the width of the pool or 50 feet long, whichever is less.
- A standard 16 unit first aid kit, including 1 blanket. Click here for a complete list of recommended items.
- A suitable area to accommodate persons requiring first-aid treatment.
- A telephone within one minute access.

**All items must be available during all hours of operation.**

When opening your facility for the season, check all items, especially the telephone.

**Here are some tips:**

- Make sure your telephone line is "live." Check for telephone line operation with your telephone company.
- Telephones exposed to the elements often become inoperable. Check the phone frequently for operation. Using a closed or "break the seal" box may help keep the phone operable.
- Emergency telephones do not have to automatically dial 9-1-1 (in fact, we've been notified by Spokane County 911 that their regulations prohibit doing so in Washington State). To prevent any unauthorized use, you may want to
- disable all numbers on the keypad except 9 and 1.
  - The location of the telephone must be listed on the pool rules sign.

If your pool has an **emergency shut-off switch**, check for proper pump shut-down and alarm operation. If your pool has a safety vacuum release system (SVRS), such as a Stingl automatic shut-off system, be sure to test and document the test at least twice per year.

If you have any questions or want to learn more, call Spokane Regional Health District's Water Recreation Program, (509) 324-1560, ext. 4, or [visit our web page](#).