

Session Abstracts

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
71st Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Swimming Pools/Recreational Waters

Wednesday, June 20

APSP Sessions

8:30 – 9:20am

Recreational Water Illness Training and Prevention

*Louis “Sam” Fruia, MEd, CPO, AFO, CPI, Aquatic Administrator, Margaret M. Clark
Aquatic Center, TX*

The Recreational Water Illness Training and Prevention module augments current certification processes for Aquatic “Specialists”. This module provides awareness training in disease transmission and waterborne pathogen education presented before aquatic certification or as a continuing education module. Everyone in the aquatics industry or those who make aquatics their business, including coaches, service technicians, and pool operators are responsible to provide the safest aquatic environment for individuals who use pools and spas for employment, recreational or competitive reasons. The participant will understand the need and be provided training in the General Duty Clause known as the “Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and its scope to RWI pathogen transmission; RWI pathogens of most concern; RWI preventing transmission; and outbreak documentation.

9:30 – 10:20am

Water Chemistry 101

Tom Seechuk, Market Manager, LaMotte Company, MD

Water chemistry plays an important part in the safety of recreational waters. An understanding of the reactions of sanitizers is the key to properly assess the condition of water. pH is also important, not only in relation to sanitizer activity, but with alkalinity and hardness in water balance. Cyanuric acid stabilizers can contribute to alkalinity reading and should be properly monitored and controlled. Water testing is subject to interferences. These will be described and techniques to overcome these interferences will be offered.

10:30 – 11:20am

Salt Water Generators

Marty Fisher, National Sales Manager, Balboa Direct, CA

Abstract not available.

NEHA Sessions

1:00 – 1:50pm

What Really Happens at Aquatic Facilities Between Inspections?

CAPT Charles S. Otto, III, MPA, RS, CFSP, Team Leader/Senior EH Officer, USPHS, CDC, GA

Using the Environmental Health Systems Approach methodology, CDC Environmental Health Services Branch, the Healthy Swimming Program, and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, conducted a comprehensive research project on a large indoor swimming pool. Along with the primary study objective of examining factors related to chloramines in the aquatics area, it was an excellent opportunity to perform a longitudinal study of operational factors. Over 100 chemical and physical parameter measurements and samples were taken each day, and others were measured using continuous monitoring and data logging. The data was collected for 12 hours per day, 6 days per week, for 13 weeks to fully characterize the pool water and air. Hourly patron data and pool maintenance were also noted. Through this extensive data collection and analysis, the findings can be generalized to assist environmental public health professionals and aquatic facility operators be better prepared to protect the health of patrons.

2:00 – 2:50pm

Requirements for Recreational Water Disinfection Equipment

David R. Purkiss, General Manager, NSF International, MI

This paper will discuss the current disinfection efficacy requirements for recreational water in various standards and regulations as well as new validation requirements for cryptosporidium inactivation. The paper will focus on readily available tools that operators and facility managers can use to determine if the equipment they are considering purchasing will provide adequate public health protection.

3:00 – 3:50pm

National Model Aquatic Health Code and Risk Reduction Plan

Douglas C. Sackett, Director, CDC's National Model Aquatic Health Code and Risk Reduction Plan Project; Assistant Bureau Director, New York State Department of Health, NY

In the United States, pool codes are reviewed and approved by state and/or local public health officials. There are no uniform national standards governing design, construction, operation, and maintenance of swimming pools and other recreational water venues. Thus, the code requirements for preventing and responding to recreational water illnesses can vary significantly among local and state agencies. A model national code would insure that the best available standards and practices for protecting public health are available for adoption by state and local agencies.

4:00 – 4:50pm

Current Technology and a Distributed Beach Monitoring Program

Jon A. Dinneen, MEd, Associate Research Analyst, State of Connecticut Dept. of Public Health, CT

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has implemented a distributed beach monitoring/notification tracking and reporting effort with assistance from the US EPA Beach Grant. The agency quickly adopted current technologies to support and manage this contemporary public health program.

This illustrated talk provides an integrated how-we-do-it introduction to our work that includes: meeting with our many partners who contribute to this coastal public health effort; receiving, managing and using monitoring and notification data from the state laboratory and selected municipalities; maintaining and using our data inventories, providing beach data and other public health responses to non-governmental agencies, third parties, and the public; and presenting Connecticut's distributed beach program.