

WATERFRONT SAFETY GUIDELINES



Newfoundland & Labrador

CONTENT

Preface.....	1
Definitions.....	2
Risk Management Plan.....	3
General Guidelines.....	7
Guidelines for Supervised Waterfronts.....	8
Guidelines for Waterfronts Without Supervision.....	10
Waterfront Equipment.....	11
Guidelines for Waterfront Signs.....	16
Guidelines for Uniforms.....	19
Guidelines For Waterfront Protocol.....	20
SAMPLE - Waterfront Incident Report Form.....	21

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The Lifesaving Society is Canada's lifeguarding experts. The Society is a national charitable organization working to prevent drowning and water-related injuries through lifeguard and lifesaving training, safety management standards and services and Water Smart® public education. The Society represents Canada internationally as an active member of the Royal Life Saving Society and the International Life Saving Federation.

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PREFACE

- *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* is designed to assist waterfront owners and operators in Newfoundland & Labrador in providing a safe aquatic environment for their patrons. It is written and distributed as a service to Royal Lifesaving Society affiliates in response to their many questions about waterfront operations.
- The Society is often asked to give an expert opinion on drownings. *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* explains the Newfoundland & Labrador Branch's viewpoint on safety issues related to waterfronts. It is meant to educate owners and operators about safety expectations as a preventative measure before drownings occur. It is also meant to give owners and operators a clear understanding of the Royal Lifesaving Society's position.
- *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* offers recommendations for minimum standards of operation for waterfront facilities where the general public is admitted for aquatic activity. Recommendations apply to both supervised and unsupervised swimming areas, unless specific to their waterfront facility and operations.
- *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* in no way replaces or supersedes current legislation. Owners and operators must obey all legislation and by-laws specific to their waterfront facility and operations.
- Owners and operators who maintain a higher standard than outlined in this document are commended. They should not lower their expectations, but work towards further improvements.
- Those who do not meet the minimum recommendations are encouraged to upgrade the safety of their operation. *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* offers a starting point, and will serve as a resource for action.
- Safety is viewed as an ongoing process. The Newfoundland & Labrador Branch of the Lifesaving Society strongly recommends that all waterfront owners and operators set goals for the improvement of public safety and work toward them, documenting their efforts.
- It is recognized that not every facility will be able to implement all of the recommendations immediately. In such cases, owners and operators are encouraged to devise a risk management plan that works towards implementing the *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* in stages.
- Each waterfront has unique features, and no single document can adequately address every situation and need. The minimum standard of the *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* may not meet the safety requirements of all facilities. Owners and operators should customize safety efforts, remembering always that patron well being is paramount.