



Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Environmental Health
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ADVISORY NOTICE

Date: April 15, 2014

To: **OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS IN VENTURA COUNTY**

From: **VENTURA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

Subject: **CHANGES TO PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL SAFETY SIGN REQUIREMENTS**

On September 1, 2012, Chapter 31B of the California Building Code was updated to include new safety sign requirements for public swimming pools. **Safety signs not previously required, (noted as *(*NEW*)* below), shall be installed as signs are replaced.**

The following section from Chapter 31B of the California Building Code details the specific requirements for the safety signs. For a complete copy of the Chapter, please visit:

www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth/community-services/pools-spas/index.html

C.B.C. SECTION 3120B REQUIRED SIGNS:

3120B.1 General. All signs shall have clearly legible letters or numbers not less than 4 inches (102 mm) high, unless otherwise required in this section, affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.

3120B.2 Pool user capacity sign. A sign shall indicate the maximum number of pool users permitted for each pool.

3120B.2.1. Spa pool. The pool user capacity of a spa pool shall be based on one pool user for every 10 square feet (0.929 m²) of pool water surface area.

3120B.2.2. Other pools. (*NEW*) The pool user capacity for all other pools shall be based on one pool user for every 20 square feet (1.858 m²) of pool water surface area.

Exception: Pool user capacity requirements do not apply to wading pools or spray grounds.

3120B.3. No diving sign. Signs shall be posted in conspicuous places and shall state, “**NO DIVING**” at pools with a maximum water depth of 6 feet or less.

3120B.4 No lifeguard sign. Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign shall be posted stating, “**WARNING: NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY.**” The sign also shall state in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high, “**Children under the age of 14 shall not use pool without a parent or adult guardian in attendance.**”

3120B.5 Artificial respiration and CPR sign. (*NEW*) An illustrated diagram with text at least 1/4 inch (6 mm) high of artificial respiration and CPR procedures shall be posted.

3120B.6 Emergency sign. (*NEW*) The emergency telephone number **911**, the number of the nearest emergency services and the name and street address of the pool facility shall be posted (one inch text and numbers are acceptable for nearest emergency other than “911”).

3120B.7 Warning sign for a spa pool. A warning sign for spa pools shall be posted stating, “**CAUTION**” and shall include the following language in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high:

1. **Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering the spa.**
2. **Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.**
3. **Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.**
4. **Do not use alone.**
5. **Long exposure may result in hyperthermia, nausea, dizziness or fainting.**

3120B.8 Emergency shut off. In letters at least one inch (25 mm) high a sign shall be posted at the spa emergency shut off switch stating, “**EMERGENCY SHUT OFF SWITCH.**”

3120B.9 No use after dark. Where pools were constructed for which lighting was not required, a sign shall be posted at each pool entrance on the outside of the gate(s) stating, “**NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK.**”

3120B.10 Keep closed. (*NEW*) A sign shall be posted on the exterior side of gates and doors leading into the pool enclosure area stating, “**KEEP CLOSED.**”

3120B.11 Diarrhea. (*NEW*) A sign in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high and in a language or diagram that is clearly stated shall be posted in view of the entrance area of a public pool which states that persons having currently active diarrhea or who have had active diarrhea within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the pool water.

Please contact your Pool Service Professional or local sign vendor regarding availability and installation. If you have any specific questions regarding these requirements, please contact your District Environmental Health Specialist at (805) 654-2813.