

MINNESOTA SWIMMING, INC.
Safety Coordinator Report to the House of Delegates
April 26, 2008

From April 2007-April of 2008 we had 26 report of occurrence forms completed in Minnesota. A brief statistical analysis shows us that 50% of those involved slips, trips and falls, not surprising given the environment in which we work and compete. One can also see that 73% of the injuries reported occurred between October and January. This would seem to indicate a time when new swimmers are joining, or re-joining clubs. A reminder to us all to “practice safety” with new members.

There were relatively few reports of injury in the water, or while entering the water. Keep up the good work in the area!

The biggest change occurring in the area of safety involves the Safety Training for Swim Coaches Course. The written exam is now available on-line. This new course involves procuring the Swimming & Diving text from the Red Cross and downloading the Safety Training text on-line. Then the on-line test can be completed. An email will be generated if the test is successfully completed by the coach applicant. The next step is to locate a Water Safety Instructor, Lifeguard Instructor, or a Safety Training for Swim Coaches Instructor to test the applicant on their skills. The instructor will turn in a course record sheet and the local Red Cross Chapter will then issue course completion cards.

In addition, should a coach possess a current lifeguarding card, they are eligible to take the written exam only and would not have to pass the water skills. In this case the expiration date would be that of the lifeguarding certification.

Anyone who possesses a current Safety Training Card will not have to renew until the expiration date shown on that card.

As always, I am sure this will generate many questions. Feel free to contact me at my office 651-696-6463.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Pearson