

SAFETY
April 24, 2004

There were 799 accidents reported nationally in 2003, which is up slightly from 779 reported in 2002. The 11-12s continued to lead but the 15-18 group has now moved into 2nd place ahead of the 13-14s. 2003 saw an increase in leg/foot (28%) and hand/arm (21%) injuries while shoulder (2%) injuries decreased.

Our LSC had 18 reported accidents in 2003 (17 in 2002). While 2002 was the year of flying object injuries, 2003 appears to have been the year for falls. These included several swimmers who slipped and fell while walking (?) on deck, trips due to chairs and curled up lane lines, a fall down stairs, a door header falling off and later being stepped on by a swimmer, and a 75 year old getting run down by 2 boys in the locker room.

As a reminder, the USA Swimming Insurance program is a General Liability insurance that covers claims of negligence against an insured (USS member, USS club, volunteer for insured activities) by participants (or any other person or organization) resulting in bodily injury, property damage or personal injury which occurred during an insured activity (USS meets, practices, dryland, tryouts, approved social & fund raising activities) This insurance requires that there be a certified USA Swimming Coach supervising the insured activity. By not following this rule, you jeopardize the insurance coverage, putting the swim team's assets at risk along with the coach's personal assets, as well as those of the individual board members/officers of the swim team. Please be safe and follow the rules!

Cindy Smith
SE Safety Chairman