

## WHAT IS THE LEGAL POSITION?:

Visitors and staff have a right to expect that their health and safety are properly controlled and PPCT has overall responsibility. Be aware of your rights and your obligations by reading the **HSE poster**. Note that the



manager (or deputy) carries the PPCT authority for all activity on the premises and his/her instructions and those of lifeguards must be followed at all times.

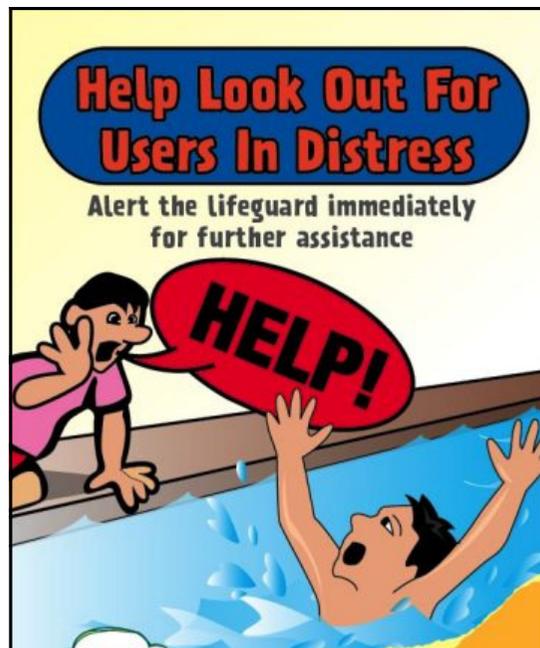
Please report all accidents. Please note that smoking, alcohol/drugs and glass are not allowed on the premises.

## HOW OFTEN IS SAFETY REVIEWED?:

In season, health and safety meetings are held at least monthly and are attended by 3 H&S support volunteers and the pool manager. All incidents and injuries are reviewed, as is our paperwork. In 2012 there were 23 treated injuries at the pool, all of which were minor and mainly related to “stubbed toes” and suchlike; this represented a frequency rate of 1.9 injuries per 2500 visits – an average lifetime regularly visiting the pool (60 years at 2-3 times per week). Out of season, meetings are held as required to bring all paperwork up to date and to ensure that all safety measures are applied in time for season opening.



SAVED BY THE  
COMMUNITY FOR  
THE COMMUNITY



## PORTISHEAD POOL COMMUNITY TRUST

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY SUMMARY BOOKLET 2013

**FOR WHOM?:** We all have a duty of care to ourselves and others so we should all read this. Please help us and support the manager in maintaining this pool as a place to have fun safely. Please show courtesy to staff and other visitors.

**WHY?:** Keeping visitors and staff safe is the single most important task we have; our lido is potentially hazardous - a large hole in the ground filled with water, surrounded by concrete terraces. Safety is no accident – keeping the risk of injury low can be achieved by everyone acting sensibly and being alert to potential incidents.

**EMERGENCY?:** If it is necessary to evacuate the pool due to fire or other emergency, the manager (or deputy) will sound a **klaxon** a number of times (see “**Evacuation Procedure**”). Unless he/she indicates otherwise:

- Leave immediately without collecting personal possessions from the changing rooms.
- Use the main entrance door or the emergency exit at the south west corner of the pool.
- Congregate on the grass patch outside at the front and await further instructions from the manager.

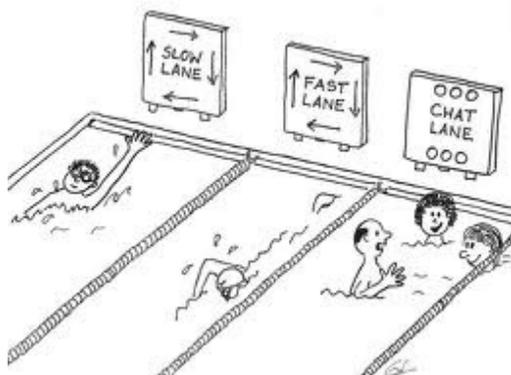
## HEALTH AND SAFETY IN DETAIL

**WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?:** The obvious hazards are the pool itself and the surrounding concrete terraces. Potential injuries are **drowning, slipping, tripping and falling** and injury from **diving into shallow water**.

**Running** increases the risk of injury. It is vital that adults act responsibly and that young people and non-swimmers are supervised properly.



Whilst we have trained lifeguards, visitors are responsible for abiding by the **“Terms and Conditions for Visitors”**. In particular all children under 8, regardless of swimming ability, must be closely supervised by an adult visitor aged 18 or above, and those under 5 should be supervised on a 1 to 1 basis. Non swimmers and swimmers using buoyancy aids must stay within the designated area of the pool (as marked by the red line and signs). A non swimmer is someone who cannot swim 2 lengths of the pool unaided. Children aged 8 to 15 may use the Pool unaccompanied provided that they can swim 2 lengths non-stop competently. Swimmers have a duty of care not to put other swimmers at risk, and must



show courtesy to others, particularly when lane swimming. No one has a “right of way”.

There are many hazards relating to pool equipment – in particular the pool cover and inside the plant room and boiler house. These are all out of bounds to those not trained. It follows that most “rota volunteers” should keep themselves to the familiar spots of reception and the tuck shop. Even in an emergency, volunteers should only assist if requested by trained staff, and only if they are competent. Trained staff are required to be conversant with the **Health and Safety Files** and to sign to this effect – these contain all policies and procedures, details of materials and chemicals used and their properties, risk assessments and control measures, maintenance records and validity dates for equipment, plant and fire extinguishers, minutes of safety meetings, pool water tests, legionella risk management and injury forms. Paperwork (and knowledge of it) is necessary as a check to ensure that everything is in order, but pool safety is achieved by all trained staff and volunteers having their eyes wide open, anticipating things that might go wrong and making every attempt to **prevent accidents**.

On busy days, there is a greater risk of something going wrong. This is the reason for the need for a larger number of lifeguards and for the **“Busy Day Policy”**. This policy is required to keep numbers in the pool to a level that can be supervised.

**Sunburn** is another cause of injury; covering up and sunscreen are advisable on sunny days. Excessive sunscreen, or sunscreen not allowed 30mins to be absorbed will, however, overload the filtration system, make the water cloudy and result in restricted access to swimming.

**WHAT IS RISK ASSESSMENT?:** Risk assessment is the means by which we manage the hazards. As far as is possible all activities are assessed for things that can go wrong and then “control measures” are applied to minimise the risk of injury. Typical control measures are those listed above under **“WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?”**

**HOW DO WE TREAT INJURIES?:** Our lifeguards are fully trained in rescue and First Aid. We have First Aid treatment materials, a First Aid room and a spinal injury board.

**WHAT ABOUT POOL WATER QUALITY?:** Random spot tests for “bathing water quality” are carried out for us by an independent party and these results are posted. We expect good results because the pool water, as well as being heated, is continuously circulated, filtered and chemically dosed to keep it clean, and is tested every 2 hours. We use chlorine as the main disinfectant; our aim is to maintain levels high enough to disinfect but not so high that it is unpleasant to swimmers. We aim to keep acidity close to the natural pH of the eyes.

**IS THERE A LEGIONELLA RISK?:** Any water standing in pipes or tanks carries a risk of legionella being present. Risks are managed by ensuring that all showers and taps are cleaned before the season commences and then by regular testing of water temperature at outlets as required by procedures set by our microbiologist. Legionella will only survive under certain conditions – we aim to avoid these conditions.

**IS EQUIPMENT PROPERLY MAINTAINED?:** We have maintenance schedules covering regular maintenance of key equipment. Please advise the manager if you notice something unsafe or not working.