

Iowa Swimming Pool and Spa Rules Reporting Injuries

The [Iowa Swimming Pool and Spa rules](#) require swimming pool and spa operators to report injuries to the local inspection agency within one business day of occurrence under 641 IAC 15.4(7) as follows:

15.4(7) Reports. Swimming pool and spa operators shall report to the local inspection agency, **within one business day of occurrence**, all deaths; near drowning incidents; head, neck, and spinal cord injuries; and any injury which renders a person unconscious or requires immediate medical attention.

All deaths, near drowning incidents; and head, neck, and spinal cord injuries are required to be reported. Reporting is also required for any injuries which renders a person unconscious or that requires immediate medical attention. Immediate medical attention refers to the evaluation and treatment of an injury by a licensed medical professional such as an EMT, paramedic, doctor, dentist, or physical therapist, either at the aquatic facility or at a medical office, clinic, urgent care, emergency room, or trauma center.

Immediate medical attention does not include a one-time treatment provided by a certified lifeguard at an aquatic facility immediately after a minor injury occurs such as cleaning minor cuts or scrapes; treating a minor burn; applying bandages; and the use of non-prescription medicine as long as no further medical treatment or evaluation is necessary.

In some cases, the swimming pool and spa operators may not be aware that an injury occurred or the extent of the injury until they receive additional information from the injured party at some point after the injury occurred. In such situations, the incident shall be reported to the local inspection agency as soon as the swimming pool and spa operators receive information on the injury.

Example of reportable incidents include but are not limited to:

- Fatalities and any non-fatal (near) drowning incidents
- Injuries to head, neck and spinal cord such as from slips, trips, falls, diving, or collisions
- Injuries to muscles, ligaments, bones, and joints such as fractures, dislocation, sprain, or strain
- Injuries requiring dental work, such as knocked out teeth, broken teeth, etc.
- Injuries that results in loss of consciousness, respiratory arrest, seizures, heart attack, or cardiac arrest
- Open wounds such as lacerations, avulsion, and severed body parts
- Closed wounds such as a blunt force or crush injury to the head or torso causing damage or internal bleeding
- Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight
- Serious burns that covering 10% or more of the body or causes significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs
- Chemical exposure injuries
- Suction entrapment injuries
- Hyperthermia or Hypothermia injuries

For additional information, please contact John Kelly at 515-724-9961 or Mindy Uhle at 515-499-1395.