Indiana State
Department of Health

Environmental Public Health
2 North Meridian Street, 5-E
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Lifeguard/Attendant Recommendations for Water Attraction/ Water Attraction Complexes (Water Parks)

The Indiana State Department of Health has not promulgated a Rule to specifically regulate water parks. Below are recommended guidelines for lifeguards/attendants at water parks that are in addition to the lifeguard requirements found in 410 IAC 6-2.1. The department has used the regulations adopted by the state of Wisconsin as a reference.

Listed below are some helpful definitions for these guidelines:

"Attendant" defined

"Attendant" means a person trained to control bathers in a safe and orderly way at pools, including slides and other water attractions.

"Non-tethered floatable" defined

"Non-tethered floatable" means a floatation device added to a pool that is not tethered to the pool basin, allowing movement of the device around the water. Rubber tubes in leisure rivers and swim wings are not considered non-tethered floatables.

"Pad walk" defined

"Pad walk" means a tethered floatable under rope and netting in an activity pool that allows a patron to cross the water using his or her hands.

"Tethered floatable" defined

"Tethered floatable" means a play item or floatation device that is affixed to the basin of a pool to restrict movement of the item

Activity pools	At least 1 lifeguard if the pool contains one of the following: 1.a pad walk 2. a tethered floatable more than 18 inches long in 2 directions. Appendages such as alligator feet shall not be included in determining length 3. a non-tethered floatable. Non-tethered floatables do not include the tire inner tubes used in the leisure river or waterslides
Wave pools	Shall have a minimum of two (2) lifeguards observing from the elevated chairs, equipped with wave stopping equipment that will immediately stop the wave making machine and shall be present when the wave making machine is in operation. All other "wave" type lifeguards may observe from the deck.
Leisure rivers	At least one attendant is required at the entrance of the leisure river. The attendant shall have a clear line of sight for all areas of the river, or additional attendants are required so that all areas of the river are in view of at least one attendant.
Vanishing edge pools	At least one lifeguard regardless of square footage, unless the water attraction is limited for adult usage only.
Vortex or current pools	At least one lifeguard is required whenever the pool is occupied by a bather.

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