The Law

Chapter 70.90 RCW gives the authority to:
- Washington State Board of Health to adopt rules (health codes)
- Secretary of Health to enforce the rules
- Secretary of Health to develop Joint Plan of Responsibility with any local health department

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The Rules

Chapters 246-260 WAC and 246-262 WAC:
- Provides specific health code requirements
- Provides specific information about who is responsible for what
- WAC 246-260 is for pools, spas, wading pools, splash pads...
- WAC 246-262 is for waterslides, wave pools, and other waterpark type features

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Routine Inspections (1-3 per year)
- Depending on the county, following may vary:
  - Inspection forms
  - Number of visits
  - Permit types and fees
  - Policies and procedures

Operating Permits
- Who issues operating permits?
  - An operating permit is required for each water recreation facility operated in this state.
  - A person may not operate a WRF without a current operating permit

- Valid for one year
- Subject to annual renewal (seasonal and annual permits)
- RCW 70.90.170 (Law)
- Permits may be revoked or suspended

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Understanding WRF Inspection Form

Front page of form includes the following sections:
- WRF Information
  - Inspection type
  - Permit type
- Water quality data
  - Primary disinfectant and pH levels
  - Water Temperature
  - Water Clarity
  - Flow rate
- Violation information
  - Critical vs. Non-Critical
  - Description of violation
  - Corrective action

Page 2 of the WRF Inspection Form

**RED Items**
- What are red items?
- What red items lead to immediate closure?
- Immediate corrective action required

**Black Items**
- Repeated violations may lead to enforcement action
- Immediate corrective action required
Tips on writing a good WRF inspection form

1. State what you observed or told
2. Verify the violation item number
3. State what the pool code requires
4. State the corrective action
5. Provide a timeframe for corrective action

Example 1
Example 1 (continued)

- What did you observe?
- What is the violation item number?
- What does the pool code require?
- What is the corrective action?
- What is the timeframe for corrective action?

Example 2

- What did you observe?
- What is the violation item number?
- What does the pool code require?
- What is the corrective action?
- What is the timeframe for corrective action?

Example 2 (continued)

- What did you observe?
- What is the violation item number?
- What does the pool code require?
- What is the corrective action?
- What is the timeframe for corrective action?
Tools and Equipment for Inspectors

- **Documents**
  - Pool codes
  - Inspection forms
  - Educational documents
  - Illness and incident forms
  - Copies of the pool rules and pool logs

- **Tools and Equipment**
  - Pool kit
  - Flashlight
  - Light meter (if available)
  - Measuring tape
  - Thermometer
  - Ear plugs

Tools and Equipment for Operators

- **Documents**
  - Operation plans
  - Dry and liquid measuring conversion sheet
  - SDSs for each piece of equipment
  - Pool log records

- **Tools and Equipment**
  - Pool kit and back-up chemicals
  - PPE for pool chemicals
  - Dry and liquid measuring utensils
  - Tools needed to operate recirculation system equipment

Staying safe at WRF?
Pressurized equipment dangers
- All equipment after the pump operates under pressure
- What should I do before adjusting any equipment?
- Wear PPE as recommended

Routine Maintenance with Pressured Equipment

Commonly used pool chemicals
**CAUTION**

Never attempt to clear a clogged line by switching chemicals. Switching the muriatic acid and sodium hypochlorite lines can result in these chemicals mixing and releasing toxic chlorine gas.

Never mix different brands of disinfectants.

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**Chemical Storage Room**

- Read and understand the product label for each pool chemical used.
- Restrict access to equipment and chemical storage rooms/areas.
- Ventilation needed.
- Rooms and areas shall be out of direct sunlight, dry and cool.
- Sized sufficiently to store all needed pool chemicals.

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**Chemical Storage**

- Don’t store chemicals on floor.
- Use a different scoop, bucket, & dispensing equipment for each pool chemical.
- Know where PPE is located.
- Don’t eat or drink.
Safety Tips When Handling Chemicals

- Remove swimmers from the pool/spa before adding any chemicals
- Follow the product label for each pool chemical used
- Wear PPE as recommended by chemical manufacturer
- Make sure you have the current measuring utensil
- Use a different scoop, bucket, & dispensing equipment for each pool chemical
- Wind direction – avoid breathing dust or fume

*DO NOT ADD WATER TO Dry POOL CHEMICALS*

Videos on Chemical Exposure

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHIm2blR7qE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RC015QXlnI4

Potential Health Effects of Pool Chemicals

1. Chlorine (skin contact, inhalation, ingestion)
   - Gas vs Liquid exposure
   - Blurred vision
   - Chest tightness
   - Coughing
   - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
2. Acid (inhalation of vapors)
   - Acute = burns, pulmonary edema, coughing, irritation of the respiratory tract
   - Long term = skin contact; pain, burns, skin irritation
3. Soda Ash
   - Irritation of the eyes, throat and nose mucous membranes.
   - Mild irritation of the skin
Chemical Emergency Plan

1. Before an incident
   - Develop a chemical emergency response plan
   - Routinely train staff

2. During an incident
   - Activate established chemical emergency response plan

3. After an incident
   - Document the incident and response and notify your LHJ within 48 hours.
   - Conduct a post-incident critique with all parties involved in the response

Questions?

Questions

- 1. Explain the proper way to store pool chemicals.
- 2. As a pool owner or operator, what should I do before replacing my recirculation pump?
- 3. What are some useful tools and equipment that will help me while I am at a water recreation facility?
- 4. As a pool owner or operator, what should I do to prepare my facility for emergencies?
- 5. What are some of the health effects of improper exposure to pool chemicals?