INJURY AND ILLNESS REPORTING
DOH Water Recreation Program

Presenter

Jun Naotsuka
Water Recreation Program Manager

Why and what to report?
RCW 70.90.190

- RCW 70.90 is the state law for regulating water recreation facilities.
- RCW 70.90.190 states: “Any person operating a water recreation facility shall report to the local health officer or the department any serious injury, communicable disease, or death occurring at or caused by the water recreation facility.”
- “Local health officer” means the county health department
- “The department” means Washington State Department of Health

WAC 246-260-121

- WAC 246-260 is the rule for regulating water recreation facilities
- WAC 246-260-121 states:
  (a) Provide the department or local health officer with information requested regarding the investigation of any injury or illness associated with the WRF; and
  (b) Notify the department or local health officer of a drowning, near drowning, death, serious injury or serious illness associated with the WRF within forty-eight hours after becoming aware of the occurrence.
- “Near drowning” is being used less and less, and “non-fatal drowning” is the term widely used today

WAC 246-260-121 (continued)

- “Serious injury” defined as:
  (a) Requiring emergency service response where a person requires medical treatment as determined by the emergency medical response personnel; or
  (b) Resulting in a person seeking medical attention at a medical facility, hospital emergency room or admittance to a hospital.
- “Serious illness” is not defined, but DOH is interested in:
  (a) Any Recreational Water Illness
  (b) Any other illness that required medical treatment
  (c) Any suspected/confirmed illness outbreak
- Not sure if you should report? Ask!
Reporting Forms

Forms for WRF Owners and Operators

- Simple one page form
- Will be revised in the future to meet the current needs
- Available from DOH and county health departments
- Fill it out and send it to health department within 48 hours
Illness Reporting Forms for Inspectors

- Currently there is no set form for reporting illness
- DOH is working on creating guidelines for investigating WRF illnesses and outbreaks
- In the meantime, you can work with DOH Water Recreation Program and waterborne disease epidemiologists when illness incidents occur

Injury Reporting Forms for Inspectors

- 9 page long form with checkboxes and spaces for narrative and sketches
- Updated (terms, questions, format, HIPAA)
- Fill out electronically or by hand
- Comes with instructions and witness interview tools (all available from DOH)
- DOH assistance available

Injury/Death Reporting Forms for Inspectors
Ultimate Goal

- Awareness of illness/injury incidents
- Provides platforms/guidelines for investigation
- Data collection/analysis
- Understanding how these incidents occur
- Improve policies and improve public health!

Why require reporting?

- What law and rule require that injury/illness incidents be reported?
- What types of illness and injury must be reported?
- Who do you report it to and by when?
- Why is reporting important?