

DESERT CITIES HOA COUNCIL

Recap of Meeting September 19, 2013

HOA Members Represented

Candelwood Villas II	Cathedral Canyon #18
Cathedral Canyon #1	Mira Vista
Cathedral Canyon #5	Montage at Mission Hills
Cathedral Canyon #12	Sun City Palm Desert
Cathedral Canyon #17	

Legal Counsel: Jennifer James, Attorney at Law – Epstein, Grinnell & Howell

Speakers Present

Shantel Bacon, Environmental Health Specialist – Riverside County Environmental Health

Kelley Amon, Environmental Health Specialist – Riverside County Environmental Health

Steve Valsvig, Owner – Valley Pools

Welcome: Al Hallinan, Chair

Treasurer's Report – To be distributed

Guest Speaker – Shantel Bacon, Environmental Health Specialist – Riverside County Environmental Health “Pool and Spa Safety”. NOTE: Most of the presentation was conducted in a question and answer format with all panel members responding to questions from the attendees.

Al Hallinan introduced Shantel. She introduced herself as the lead inspector for pools in the County. Their objective is to make sure people are safe where they eat, work and play. She and her staff inspect all pools and restaurants in the County twice each year. They do not inspect private pools. Only semi-public (shared by 4 or more units) and public pools.

She said pool signs are needed because experience has shown that in an emergency most people “forget” everything they normally know. The signs are there to remind them.

Germs from other swimmers and unsafe water supplies can easily contaminate pool water, especially if it isn't properly disinfected. Contaminated pool water can cause a variety of ailments and diseases, such as diarrhea, skin, ear and upper respiratory infections.

Viruses, bacteria and protozoa are the causes in most swimming pool related ailments. The mucus, saliva, blood and skin of infected swimmers can directly contaminate pool and spa water with sufficient number of pathogens to cause infections in other swimmers.

Any type of feces is a danger to pools and spas. The pathogens they contain are typically present in numbers as large as one million per gram of feces.

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The most common pathogens that are found in swimming pools are:

1. Bacteria such as E. coli, shigella (the cause of dysentery), campylobacter and salmonella. Bacteria are generally killed quickly by chlorine in properly maintained swimming pools.
2. Protozoa such as cryptosporidium (the cause of diarrhea) and giardia (causes severe gastrointestinal effects). Some of these pathogens are resistant to chlorine and can survive for days in chlorine concentrations typically found in swimming pools and spas.
3. Hepatitis A and nor viruses.

Poor water circulation can also be a factor in the spread of swimming pool and spa related ailments. That is why the regulations require that 100 % of the pool and spa water be circulated through the filter every six hours while the pool is open to swimmers. Swimmers should not rely only on the pool's/spa's chemicals and filtration and should:

- Avoid swallowing or spitting out pool water
- Shower with soap and water before and after swimming/spa time.
- Remove small children from pools for bathroom breaks and check diapers often.
- Change diapers in a bathroom and not next to the pool or spa area
- Wash children, especially their rear ends, thoroughly with soap and water before they enter a pool or after a diaper change.
- Do not swim within 14 days of having active diarrhea. Diarrhea can be transmitted to others through pool water weeks after symptoms cease.

The Environmental Health inspectors mainly check the chlorine levels, clarity and pH of the water, that showers are working and pool drain covers are in place.

When pools are constructed they go through plan check to review for adequate piping and pump sizes to insure adequate water circulation for filtering. The entire volume of water must turn over every 6 hours in pools. Every 30 minutes in spas. And every 2 hours in wading pools.

Pool lights are required to make it possible to see a person in distress at the bottom of the pool. Steve Valsvig pointed out LED bulbs last a long time and have a good cost recovery but they cost \$250 each, their illumination fades over time and they are susceptible to destruction from moisture if the fixture leaks. CFL bulbs only cost \$20 each and provide nearly equivalent electricity savings – they are most commonly being installed.

Shantel turned the presentation over to Kelly Amon. She began with Environmental Health is responsible for enforcing Title 22 & 24. The legislation is on their website at: www.rivcoeh.org

She distributed a flyer on important changes in pool legislation (attached at end of recap).

Inspectors will close pools if they find any of the following:

- No chlorine
- No drain covers or covers loose or cracked

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- Fecal matter
- Recirculation not working
- Glass in pool enclosure
- Pool cloudy
- Missing body hook

Their inspection report contains a list of 61 items they check during each inspection.

Inspections result in closures approximately 40% of the time. Some pools are never closed, other are frequently closed due to inadequate maintenance.

Most laws are designed for protection of persons under 5.

She said there is a new requirement for 2 rails for all spas. If you are replastering the need for the installation is checked during the permit process.

Also, depth markers need to have both depth and units of measure – 3^{FT} on one tile or 3 and FT on two tiles. A no diving symbol tile must also be under the depth tile(s) when depth less than 6 feet. Depth tiles are required every 20 feet along the water line and in the pool deck above each waterline tile. The need for the additional tiles is checked during the permit process.

Licensed contractors are aware of the new requirement.

Automatic chlorinators with specific output of 3 pounds of chlorine per 10,000 gallons per day are now required. But they are only going to be required on new construction.

Steve Valsvig continued the fact that people can get much improved efficiencies by installation of new variable speed pumps. The payback in energy cost savings is 6 to 18 months. Maintenance contractors need to match the pump output to meet the 6 hour flip, filter capacity and heater flow requirements.

The maximum temperature setting for a spa is 104 degrees.

Pool gates are required to be locked during non-operating hours.

Open Forum – None

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Handouts – None

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 17, 2013 at the Cathedral City – City Hall

Tom Tousignant, Recorder