

# SUMMARY OF ROXIE'S SWIM SAFE ORDINANCE

## INTRODUCTION

Drownings are a leading cause of injury death for young children ages 1 through 14, with three children dying every day because of drowning. In fact, drowning kills more children ages 1 through 4 than anything else, excluding birth defects.

## LA COUNTY ACTION

On June 28, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved important lifesaving changes to County Ordinance Title 11 for public swimming pools that will take effect starting January 1, 2023. This new ordinance, known as "Roxie's Swim Safe Ordinance<sup>1</sup>," applies to specific public swimming pools as specified below located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and in cities that adopt this ordinance.



## NEW REQUIREMENTS

The following new requirements become effective January 1, 2023:

- All public swimming pools that require lifeguard services, and all children's camps and schools that have public pools and public swimming areas, must implement Aquatic Safety Plans and require training in CPR and first aid;
- Public pools located at children's camps and schools must provide lifeguard services; and
- Owner or operator of any public pool or public swimming area must immediately notify the Department of Public Health in the event of a fatal or non-fatal drowning incident.

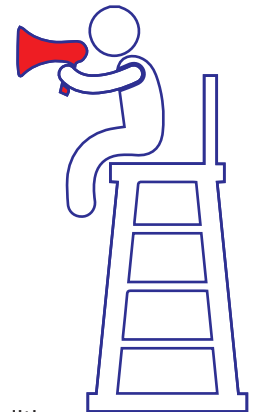
## LIFEGUARD SERVICES & AQUATIC SAFETY PLANS REQUIRED

The following locations require lifeguard services and the development and implementation of *Aquatic Safety Plans*.

- Public swimming pools:
  - At and used by day camps and overnight camps for children.
  - Located at schools.
  - Where a direct fee is charged for use.
  - With an induced current or wave action, including wave pools.
  - Located at or used by juvenile detention facilities.
  - Where alcohol is served (e.g., hotel pool).
  - Lazy Rivers and Water Slides.
  - Public swimming areas when open or in use (e.g., Santa Fe Dam).

**Aquatic Safety Plans** must include the following:

- ✓ **Staffing Plan** - designates how pool staff maintain the public swimming pool in a safe condition
- ✓ **Lifeguard Plan** - designates lifeguard responsibilities
- ✓ **Lifeguard Staff Plan** - designates the number of on-duty lifeguards and rotation schedule
- ✓ **Emergency Action Plan** - designates how pool staff will respond to emergency situations
- ✓ **Biohazard Action Plan** - designates how pool staff will decontaminate pool waters after a biohazard event
- ✓ **Accidental Chemical Release Plan** - designates how pool staff will respond to accidental chemical releases



## NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In the event of a drowning, or a near-drowning (which required transportation to a medical facility) the incident must be reported to the County of Los Angeles Public Health Duty Officer at 213-989-7140 within 24 hours.

Records of all lifeguard rescues where the lifeguard entered the water and activated the Emergency Action Plan must be maintained by the pool operator for a minimum of 2 years.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about Roxie's Swim Safe Ordinance, guidance materials, and templates can be found on the Public Health website at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/recreational-waters.htm>

For questions and concerns, please contact the Recreational Waters Program at (626) 430-5360.



<sup>1</sup>In 2019, 6-year-old Roxie Forbes drowned at the swimming pool of a children's summer day camp in Los Angeles County. In her memory, her parents, Doug Forbes and Elena Matyas, established the Meow Meow Foundation to advocate for drowning prevention and were instrumental in the development of this ordinance.