

Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for HCSP

The Emergency Action Plan outlines how volunteers must respond to any incident that could compromise swimmer safety, water quality or the safe operation of the pool. Its purpose is to ensure swift, calm and coordinated action to protect users and restore normal operation as safely as possible.

1. Loss of Pool Visibility

If the bottom of the pool cannot be seen (due to heavy rain or water cloudiness), all swimmers must be instructed to leave the pool immediately. Swimming may resume only once visibility is fully restored and the pool is confirmed safe.

2. Faeces or Solid Contamination

Swimmers leave the pool. The volunteer removes solids using the pool net, tests chlorine and pH, and keeps the pool closed until levels are confirmed safe. Swimmers may return after at least 30 minutes post-treatment if water quality is acceptable.

3. Diarrhoea Contamination

Immediate evacuation of swimmers and refund if required. Chemical team is called. The pool must be vacuumed, flocculant added, and filtration allowed to run for 24 hours. The pool stays closed until chemical levels are normal and water clarity is restored.

4. Blood or Vomit on Poolside

Contamination is contained and not allowed into the pool. Wearing gloves, volunteers clean and disinfect the area, dispose of waste safely, and ensure the area is fully sanitised before reopening.

5. Blood or Vomit in the Pool

Swimmers are removed immediately. The contamination is removed with the net and the chemical team tests and treats the water. The pool stays closed until chlorine levels recover, with at least 30 minutes before reopening once safe.

6. Hair Entrapment

A volunteer enters the pool to release the swimmer. Scissors or a knife may be required. Another volunteer calls 999 if needed. CPR is given if required. Entrapment is unlikely due to HCSP's twin-sump design and protective mesh covers.

7. Thunder and Lightning

Pool is evacuated immediately. Swimming may only resume one hour after the last observed thunder or lightning.

8. Fumes, Smoke or Fire

Evacuate swimmers calmly. If safe, allow swimmers to collect towels. Volunteers check changing rooms and the Snack Shack. Call emergency services. Move everyone to the assembly point in the school playground and await instructions.

9. Gas Leak

Do not operate electrical switches. Evacuate swimmers and move everyone to the assembly point. Turn off the gas supply if safe. Call the gas emergency number (0800 111 999). Pool remains closed until declared safe.

10. Cloudy Water

If the pool floor cannot be seen, swimming stops immediately. A chemical team volunteer is called to check and correct levels. Backwashing and refilling may be required. The pool remains closed until clarity is restored.

Summary Statement

The EAP ensures that all volunteers respond quickly and consistently to emergencies. It prioritises swimmer evacuation, safety, water quality control, clear communication and escalation to trained chemical volunteers or emergency services when necessary. The pool remains closed after any incident until it is fully safe to reopen.