



Arapahoe Park and Recreation District

May 30, 2008

To: Arapahoe Park and Recreation District Residents and Patrons of the Trails Recreation Center

From: The Board of Directors, Arapahoe Park and Recreation District

This letter is in response to an incident of a 3-year old boy, which occurred in the swimming pool at the Trails Recreation Center on April 5, 2008 and was reported by two local TV stations. The parents of the child lost sight of their boy in the zero depth pool for an undetermined time. Our lifeguards were notified of a missing boy. The lifeguards properly maintained coverage of their area of responsibility and began an immediate search for the boy in the water. The mom saw her son in the water. She jumped in and pulled him from the water. The incident is referred to as an active save, where the person is conscious and breathing. EMS services were offered to the parents, who declined, saying they would take him to their Doctor. We are happy to report the boy, as reported by Children's Hospital, had no water in his lungs and received a clean bill of health.

The Board of Directors met with the parents to get a better understanding of their concerns and subsequently conducted a comprehensive review of the Trails Recreation Center aquatics facility protocol, including but not limited to; policies and procedures, scanning techniques, zones and rotation schedules, emergency action planning, lifeguard auditing, rules and regulations. We asked our architectural firm to review our pool design and they confirmed the pool conformed to industry standards and we do not plan on any modifications to the activity pools at this time.

The Trails follows the American Red Cross guidelines based on the design of the aquatics area. All the Trail's lifeguards take a 30+hour Red Cross lifeguarding Course, which includes CPR for the professional rescuer and first aid. Once hired, they must go through additional in-house training, shadowing, and evaluation of skills prior to being allowed into independent rotation. They also receive monthly in-service trainings and drills to keep their skills refreshed. Our staff is trained in emergency rescue procedures. Lifeguarding is a preventative measure and children cannot be watched 100% of the time. As such, our rules, posted in the swimming area, read, "Children under 6 years of age, need to have a responsible person in the water with them".

To date, The Trails Recreation Center has had no drowning and no passive victims, defined as unconscious and requiring EMS medical attention, since our opening in November 2004. For the first four months of 2008, there have been a total of 8 active saves, which compares to an average of 12.5 active saves per month in the Denver metro area.

The Board of Directors is confident that our staff is well trained and the activity pool is a safe place to swim. We would like to assure the community we are regularly reviewing the operations of all our facilities in the Park District. Our lifeguards, staff, and management appreciate your support.

Arapahoe Park and Recreation District

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