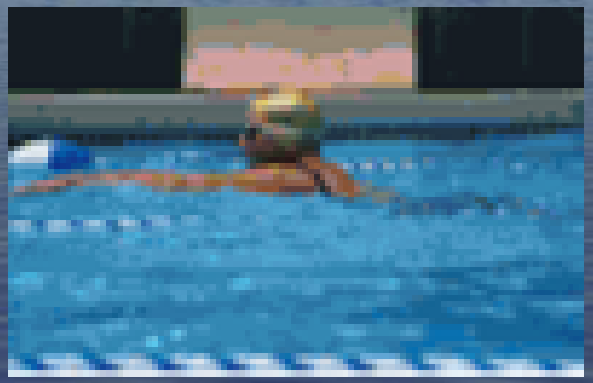
# “Swim Area Safety”



Presented by:
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# Swimming Area Safety

- Introduction
- The Argument for Safety
- “Industry Standards”
- Proper Signs & Operation
- Lifeguard vs. Pool Attendant
- Other Issues
- Conclusion

# The Argument for Safety

- 6,000 people drown each year in the U.S. [#1]
- Drowning is the 4th leading cause of death
  - 2nd most common for people under 19 years old [#2]
- 350 children under 5 years old drown in pools each year
  - 2,600 children under 5 years old are treated in emergency rooms each year
- 42% of swimming incidents require hospitalization

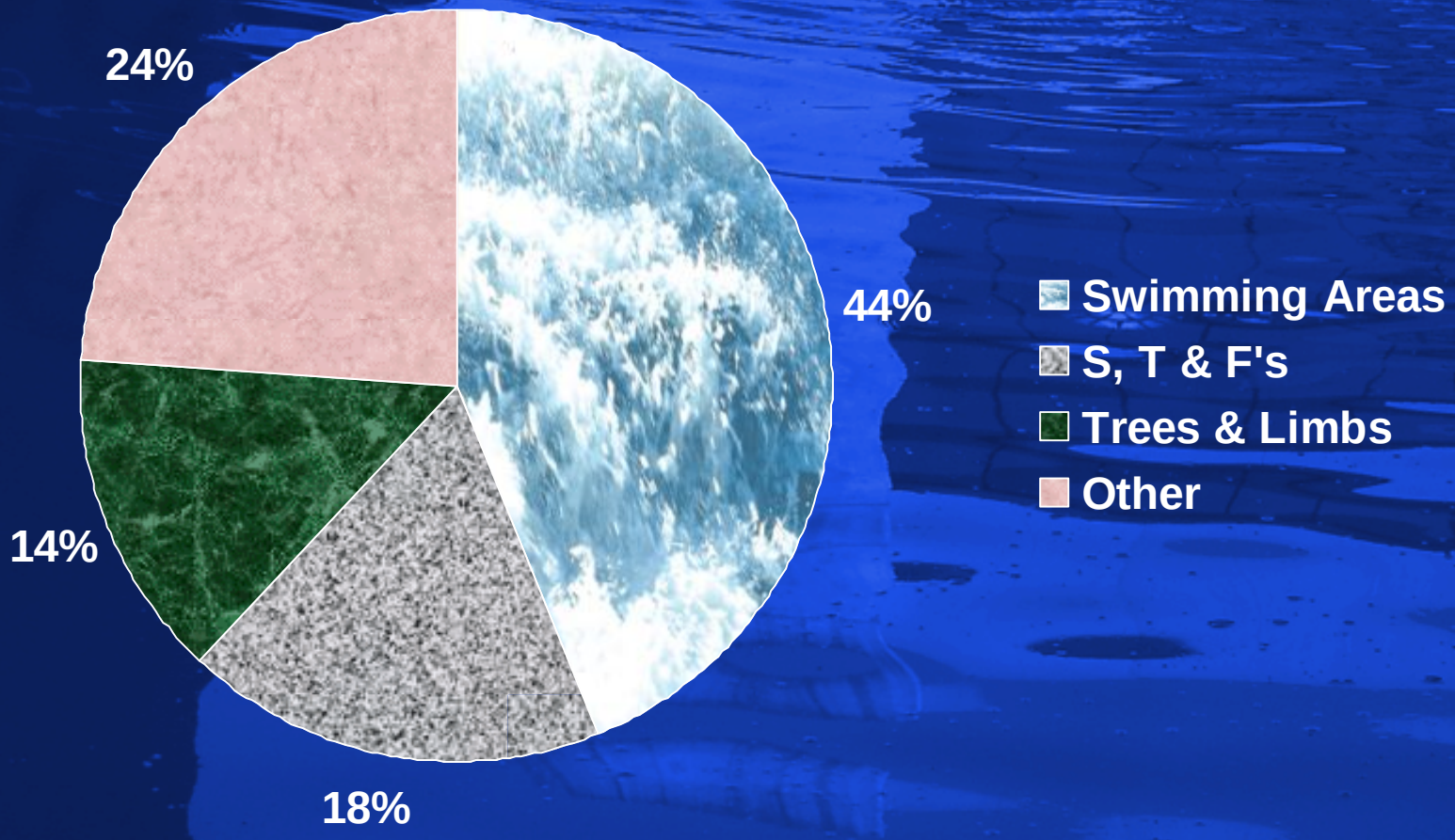
# The Argument for Safety
## Costs

- Medical Costs for submersion victims easily reach $80,000
- Brain Damage Victims
  - Initial Medical Costs over $300,000
  - In hospital for at least 4 months
- If negligence is found the lawsuits are usually measured in millions of dollars
  - Business owner will most likely attend deposition and trial [#3]

# The Argument for Safety
## Evergreen's Experience

- Average drowning settles for $870,000 plus expenses of $155,000
  - Total costs is over $1,000,000
    - Check YOUR policy limits or call your agent
- On average 40-70 drownings per year will occur in campgrounds in United States
  - 82% will result in lawsuits

# Severity of Swimming Areas



# “Industry Standards”

- Legal Establishment’s “Correct” or “Prudent” Way
- Duty of Care / Due Care
- Legal and Moral Standards
- Camping Industry has matured
- Government Agencies – ANSI [#4]
- Standards are Created
  - Common Sense
  - Past Legal Cases – “Precedent”

# Proper Signs & Operations

- Handouts on Signage & Operations
- Major Points of Handouts

  - Signage Location
    - Pools
      - All entry points
      - Inside the gated area #5
    - Beaches
      - Locations that “Cannot be missed by beachgoers”
      - Several Locations
      - If not fenced, remove attractive nuisances

# Proper Signs & Operations

- Signage Text
  - Lifeguard Notice
    - "LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" o
    - "WARNING: NO LIFEGUA DUTY"
    - Lettering should be no less block [#6]
  - Other Rules on separate sign(s)
  - Universal symbols
- Pool Depth Markings
  - From the water's edge within 18 inches / Non-Skid [#7]
  - Every break in grade/ Every 25' / Every Side
  - Non-vinyl pools – on vertical walls also
  - Wadding Pools too
  - At least 4 inches tall [#8]
  - Specify 'ft.' or 'Feet' [#9]

# Proper Signs & Operations

– Pool Lifeline
  - Recessed Hooks
  - 1’ before break in gra
  - Rope buoy & markin
– Life Rings
  - Needed at both pools

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Lifeguard is On Duty

# Proper Signs & Operations

- "No Diving" Signs
  - Put it on the inside fence
  - Put it on the Sign of Rules
  - If desired on pool decking
  - Floats / Docks
    - Water > 8' to allow diving
    - If < 8' all 4 sides must be posted

- Open Water Swim Areas – Docks should not be used as a side or portion of the side to designate a swim area
- Symbol or Word for "No Headfirst Sliding" on Pool Slides
- Pool Log

# Proper Signs & Operations

- Gates, Fences & Barriers
  - Must be 4’ high #12
  - If building is one side all entry & exit ways must be secured
  - Gate Latch
    - Must be at least 45” high
    - Must be self latching

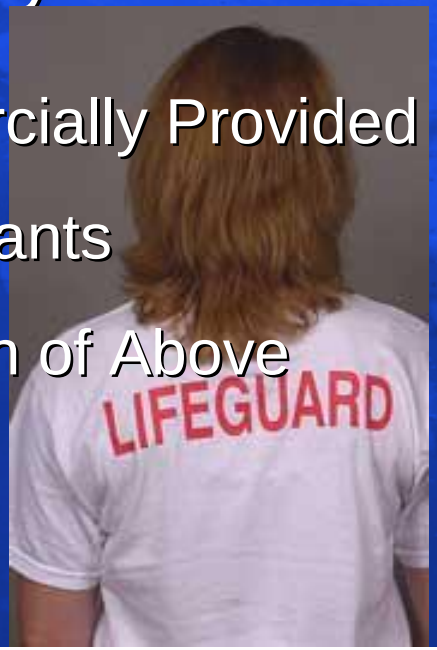
- Daily Wa
  - On file
  - Check
    - Hig
  - Prefer
  - Always

# Life Guard or Pool Attendant

VS.

# Life Guard or Pool Attendant

- Lifeguards *may* give a false sense to parents that their children are safe
- Someone from staff needs to supervise the Lifeguard(s)
- Person responsible for supervising water should have absolutely no other duties
- Options
  - No Commercially Provided Supervision
  - Life Guards
  - Pool Attendants
  - Other
  - Combination of Above



# Other Issues

- Shallow vs. Deep Water Pools
- Certifications
  - **Lifeguard Certification**
  - **American Red Cross (CPR & First Aid)**
  - **YMCA**
  - **Boy Scouts of America** #14
- Additional Hazards
  - Pool Slides
  - Diving Boards
  - Floats
  - Water Trampolines
- "Manmade" versus "Natural" Bodies of Water

# The Final Question

- Ph for a pool should be between 7.2 and 7.8 #15

# And the Winner is…

# “Swim Area Safety”

**Thank You For Attending**
Lucas Hartford & Mike Pulk