Key Concepts Influencing Lifeguarding Staffing Plans:
Technical aspects of the MAHC’s lifeguarding provisions using visual aides to show factors affecting surveillance, such as blind spots, glare and rotation procedures, and integration into a facility's Aquatic Safety Plan.

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Introduction

- Staffing plan
- Safety plan
- Zones of patron surveillance
- Rotation procedures
Lifeguard Staffing Addressed in MAHC Section 6.0 – Policies and Management

• MAHC does not prescribe specific number or placement of lifeguards
  – performance-based
  – details in Safety Plan
Safety Plan

• Must be developed & implemented (Section 6.3.3)
  – includes lifeguard staffing plan
  – minimum number of lifeguards per safety plan must be provided (Section 6.3.4.3.1)
Lifeguard Staffing Plan

- Zones of patron surveillance
- Rotation procedures
Zones of Patron Surveillance

- The QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is capable of viewing the entire area of the assigned zone of PATRON surveillance,
- The QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is able to reach the furthest extent of the assigned zone of PATRON surveillance within 20 seconds,
- Identify whether the QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is in an elevated stand, walking, in-water and/or other approved position,
- Identifying any additional responsibilities for each zone, and
- All areas of each AQUATIC VENUE are assigned a zone of PATRON surveillance.
Rotation Procedures

• Identifying all zones of PATRON surveillance responsibility at the AQUATIC FACILITY,

• Operating in a manner so as to provide an alternation of tasks for each QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD conducting PATRON surveillance activities such that no QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD conducts PATRON surveillance activities for more than 60 continuous minutes,

• Have a practice of maintaining coverage of the zone of PATRON surveillance during change of QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD,

• Have period(s) of at least 10 minutes of non-PATRON surveillance activity for the purpose of providing an alternation of task.
Factors Affecting Patron Surveillance

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Lifeguard Performing Patron Surveillance
And Not!
Can you see the problem(s)?
Environmental
Maria Joseph 36 mother of 5
Really?
Add on to pools
Positioning
Proper Rotation
Communication
Emphasis
Elevated Rotation
At least one always performing surveillance
Rotation Complete
Factors that affect Lifeguard Surveillance

Overcoming Challenges in waterparks and pools with special attractions

RAC Carroll, Jeff Ellis & Associates
Addressing the challenges

All aquatic facilities face unique challenges for lifeguard placement, especially with the addition of features most commonly found in waterpark environments. Generally speaking, challenges include:

- **Environmental** - including glare from the sun, lights, and windows.
- **Water characteristics** - including agitation, movement, turbidity, reflection, and refraction of light sources.
- **Attraction characteristics** - including spray features, play features, corners, edges, theming.
- **Swimmers** – the people in the water themselves and the items they bring with them.
- **Complacency on the part of management**
Examples of Challenges

The sun can be a big issue both outside and inside....
Examples of Challenges

Facility design and features....
Examples of Challenges

Curves, islands, Vegetation....
Examples of Challenges

Objects in the water....
Examples of Challenges

Spray features....
Examples of Challenges

Water agitation & movement....
Examples of Challenges

People....
Thoughtful lifeguard placement

Elevated guard stands allow a lifeguard to see farther and may compensate for glare issues....
Thoughtful lifeguard placement

Roving lifeguards allow for seeing around corners and cover longer, curvier zones...
Thoughtful lifeguard placement

Putting lifeguards in the water may help with water movement / agitation and high swimmer density...
Thoughtful lifeguard placement

Splitting a zone into two smaller Zone of Protection® areas may be needed as well...
Identifying Zone Responsibilities

Lifeguards need site-specific training covering the zones they will be expected to protect.

- Documentation that details the zone and expected behavior of the lifeguard to adequately protect it should be used during training and available to lifeguards during operation.

- Supervision and accountability – lifeguards need to be checked and held accountable to follow these expectations.
Example of a good rotation