

## **Lifeguard System Review**

In consultation with The Royal Lifesaving Society – Alberta and Northwest Territories Branch (Lifesaving Society), two processes were identified as required to review lifeguarding provisions at all City of Calgary-operated pools. These processes are outlined below.

### **1. Lifeguard Positioning Analysis**

The purpose of the Lifeguard Positioning Analysis is to provide Calgary Recreation with an understanding of the factors that should be considered when developing or improving safety and supervision systems to lifeguard each pool.

The Lifeguard Positioning Analysis includes:

- An analysis of the physical environment relating to lifeguard positioning, stations, pathways and rotations, as well as characteristics of the various guest activities.
- Facilitation and hands-on experiential activities to collect information and draw on staff knowledge about the facility, existing systems and current customer demographics.
- Discussion about the positioning of lifeguards, lifeguard to bather ratios, as well as how the activities, amenities and equipment supervision impact the ability for the lifeguard to effectively guard all areas within their area of responsibility.

During a Lifeguard Positioning Analysis, lifeguarding staff observe a mannequin as it is dragged across the bottom of the pool from several locations on the pool deck. This process, along with a facilitated discussion identifies blind spots and challenges to lifeguarding in the specific facility.

At the completion of the Lifeguard Positioning Analysis, a detailed report was provided to Calgary Recreation with recommendations specific to each site to reduce risk to the users and The Corporation, in alignment with industry best practices. These recommendations include recommended pathways and positions lifeguards should utilize depending on activity and number of people in the pool. These pathways and positions will mitigate blind spots and reduce the impact glare has on the ability for the lifeguard to see the bottom of the pool.

### **2. Safety and Supervision Plan review**

The comprehensive review of the Safety and Supervision Plan begins following the completion of a finalized Lifeguard Positioning Analysis report at each site. A draft report with recommendations for updating current practices on the four sites analyzed to date was provided to Calgary Recreation. The report was finalized by the Lifesaving Society after Calgary Recreation had an opportunity to review and respond. The Safety and Supervision Plan review process includes:

- Evaluation of each Safety and Supervision Plan for compliance with the Government of Alberta Pool Standards, July 2014 (amended January 2018) and the Lifesaving Society's Pool Safety Standards.

- Review of the incorporation of the Lifeguard Positioning Analysis results into the Safety and Supervision Plan.
- Identification of gaps and inconsistencies in the Safety and Supervision Plan.
- Identification of gaps and inconsistencies across reviewed City of Calgary facilities.
- Meeting with the Lifesaving Society to discuss findings, observations, and recommendations.
- Final report by facility.