



New Safety Program at Ken-Caryl Pools

2023 Summer preparation is in full swing here at the Ken-Caryl Ranch! We have a fully staffed aquatics team that is ready to serve our community and keep our pools safe. Ken-Caryl Ranch has made the transition over to a new aquatics risk management company: StarGuard Elite. SGE has created a new industry standard by finding creative solutions to improve safety and mitigate risks at our pools. SGE's evidence-based protocols are the most revolutionary and up to date of any training agency in the world. Mid-April, all lifeguards will be participating in a 2-day blended (both online and in person, total 24 hours) training covering lifeguard risk management and life-saving skills.

Lifeguards are held to high standards, and training at the beginning of the summer is only a fraction of what is expected of them. Lifeguarding staff are required to attend two, two-hour trainings a month in order to remain vigilant and up to date on their skills. SGE does monthly audits throughout the summer. These audits entail a StarGuard Elite auditor to come out to our facilities and test our lifeguards' skills to ensure they are meeting the industry standard. Facilities must adhere to strict protocols including:

- Guards should be consistently scanning the pool and be able to recognize a patron in need of assistance in 10 seconds and be able to reach that person and render aid within 20 seconds.
- The number of guards we have on stand actively watching the water is dependent on bather load. At any point if a lifeguard feels like they would not be able to make it across their section of the pool in 20 seconds, another guard must go up on stand to help cover their zone (the area in a pool a lifeguard is responsible for).
- Every summer we validate all of our pools to make sure that lifeguards can see every part of their zone and get to each part of their zone in 20 seconds. This process is done by utilizing a mannequin that is dropped in multiple areas throughout a lifeguard's zone to make sure all areas of the zone can be viewed and accessed by the lifeguard on stand.
- Throughout the summer you may see a mannequin dropped into the pool where the lifeguard on stand is required to recognize the mannequin in the pool in 10 seconds and retrieve the mannequin in 20. This required training is to help guards remain vigilant and attentive to the patrons in the water throughout the summer.
- All lifeguards should actively be enforcing the rules that are always posted at all 3 pools. Lifeguards may use their whistle to get the attention of a patron who is not adhering to the rules or simply talk to the patron and explain the rules.
- In case of emergencies, we are required to have at least one lifeguard off stand to assist in emergency response should an incident occur. Lifeguards have been trained on how to follow our Emergency Action Protocol. In case of an emergency, we have a backboard, oxygen, AED, and other basic life support equipment that is checked daily by our staff.

As many of you know, we have also had safety challenges with children that have no parental supervision at the pools. This year we will be mitigating these challenges by implementing new safety

and behavior policies. Look for more information in the next month on our social outlets and in the paper. We are looking forward to our safest summer yet with SGE!