

SAFETY
October 2, 2005

The 2005 2nd Quarter Accident Summary is based on 462 accidents reported nationally through 6/30/05. (There were 443 reports filed for this same time period in 2004) In the accident age breakdown category, the 11-12s continue to rule, however there is a 3-way tie for 2nd place between 15-18 (19%), 13-14 (18%), and 9-10 (18%). The top 3 injuries involved leg/foot (27%), hand/arm (19%), and head/neck (18%). We had 14 reports filed in our LSC. 43% were water related and 57% took place out of water.

Due to some safety concerns that arose during long course season, I have included some information on lightning safety from the National Lightning Safety Institute (NLSI) with my report. Their view in summary: "At the first signs of thunder or lightning, all pool activities should be suspended (showers too) until 30 min. after the last observed thunder or lightning." After conducting my own informal poll of Parks and Recreation Directors from all over Tennessee, Alabama, and NW Florida, it appears that the standard within our LSC is to vacate the pool for 30 min. for lightning and 20 min. for thunder. It should be noted that the US Swim Safety Committee does recommend following the Lightning Safety Institute guidelines. The NLSI's slogan is "Safety is the prevailing directive", based on the principle that safety has priority over any other issues.

Cindy Smith
SE Safety Chairman