

- In the latest HSE guidance, HSG179 (fourth edition) published in 2018 which covers swimming pool, water parks and paddling pools within a swimming pool complex as defined in BSEN15288-2 as type 1,2 or 3. Splash parks and outside paddling pools such as the ones in Harlow are not covered by this guidance. No other guidance issued by the HSE has been issued to cover these activities.
- It is therefore recommended that the council follows the guidance where possible and where is reasonably practicable for the paddling pools and splash parks , this means balancing the level of risk against measures needed to control the real risk in terms of money, time or trouble, however the Council do not need to take action if it would be grossly disproportionate to level of risk.
- It is the council's responsibility to ensure a safe and risk-free environment of these facilities for the public and staff, and to follow best practice and shall encompass the requirement under the Equality Act, water quality and hygiene, child protection and in certain cases, fire safety in the workplace, i.e. plant rooms and storage areas.
- There is also a need under Reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrence regulations (RIDDOR) to have a policy in place for reporting such workplace work related accident/incidents.
- The splash parks or paddling pools under the council's control, should have undertake risk assessments at each, for the existing locations and ensure the new ones are covered by the designer risk assessment and with discussion with user departments.
- At both Splash park and paddling pools, it is incumbent on the council to provide access for disabled people including changing spaces and toilet facilities, under the Equality Act.
- Safety signage and information for pool/park users should be considered as a part of your package of risk control measures, warn the public when there are changes in depth of water, slippery surfaces, use of the facilities in safety terms. Equipment / apparatus use, security and limitation of use of splash parks and pools. General signage should be in appropriate location at entrances, which should include to advise parents/ guardians to supervise their own children at all times whilst within the fenced enclosures of splash park/paddling pool.
- There is a need to agree on the maximum number of people who can safely use the splash park/ paddling pool, considered by the size of facility and amenity spaces surrounding pool, but within fenced/walled areas.

- Prevent unauthorised access to plant room and water/ chemical storage areas with effective measures to prevent access.
- The perimeters fencing/ walling will also prevent animals (dogs and foxes) entering the splash park and paddling pool areas. Consider motion sensitive lighting linked to security cameras and/or alarms.
- It is not apparent in HSE guidelines that for paddling pools and splash park that lifeguards are required or not at these facilities, it is therefore more important that information to pool users is particularly informative and that signage are highly visible to all attendees.
- The measures required to ensure pool/splash park users safety must be determined by site - specific risk assessments. Individual risk assessments must include not only physical hazard but those hazards relating to the activities undertaken at each facility. When needs are assessed for possible supervision the following should be considered: -
 - Local circumstances and access to site.
 - The existing and/or proposed design of paddling pool or splash park.
 - Equipment and plant access and servicing ability
 - Security of site and equipment / buildings
- The council should have an appreciation of main hazards and risks to user, these are: -
 - Unauthorised access to paddling pool/splash park during operating times or after hours.
 - Unruly behaviour and misuse of equipment.
 - Consuming alcohol or eating food within paddling pool or splash park.
 - Inadequate/supervision by parents of children.
 - Collection/ clearing rubbish from facility, ensuring a clean environment.
 - Polluted water by various substances, particularly in paddling pools
 - Inadequate water testing and recording results.
 - Inadequate signage indicating depth of water and advice on the correct use of facility.
 - Good design and regular maintenance of plant, building and equipment to reduce.
- Hazards to ensure continued health and safety of pool users and employees.
 - Not following manufactured instructions to maintain equipment at prescribed preventive maintenance procedures and at the intervals recommended.
 - Inadequate and safe storage and delivery of chemicals and the use of same in confined spaces, i.e. plant rooms, by employees. poor employees training in the use of chemicals used in splash park/paddling pools.

- Further legislation should be considered: -
 - Corporate manslaughter and corporate homicide act
 - Workplace (health, safety and welfare regulations)
 - Provision of use of work equipment regulation
 - Confined spaces regulations

- Risk management consideration for splash parks
 - Splash parks are a fun addition to any neighbourhood park, and for children with their parents to have an experience. parents don't have to worry about their children swimming in deep water or their swim abilities, no life jackets or floaters being required.

- Best practice for operators of splash parks facilities: -
 - Maintain the recreational water facility in a clean and sanitary state.
 - Maintain the water chemistry in a manner that reduces to potential for the spread of communicable disease.
 - Respond appropriately to adverse incidents that may affect the health of facility users.
 - Maintain procedures and train facility staff in responding to emergency incidents (e.g. fouling of water by fecal matter).

- Be equipped with appropriate safety and emergency equipment to respond to the hazards associated with the use of the facility. This may include things like first aid kit, emergency telephone, reaching pole, buoyant throwing aid, spine board and blanket.

- Perform daily pre-opening checks:
 - Make sure the pad area is clean and free from obstacles such as broken beer bottles, garbage, rocks, bird fences, grass cutting, etc.
 - Water chemistry is adequate, and treatment and recirculation equipment is operational where applicable.
 - Grating or drain covers are securely fastened to all pipelines and fittings that terminate in the spray/splash pad.
 - Fittings that terminate the pool are flush with the edges and are free to sharp edges.
 - All ground fault interrupters are operational, where provided.
 - Clear of any algae as this can cause a slippery surface.

- Maintain a log book and keep daily records of the following:
 - Daily inspection
 - Filtration, disinfection and additional of fresh water.
 - Breakdown of equipment and repairs that have occurred.
 - Incident reports or emergency, rescues that have occurred.

- Create spray /splash pad rules:
 - Parents or guardians are to supervise their child /children at all times.
 - Children should be appropriately attired for their age and continence ability to prevent fouling of the spray pad/splash pad.
 - Washing of hands after using the toilet or changing facilities.
 - Avoid shallowing water from spray /splash pad.
 - No glass containers, food, or beverage is allowed on the spray pad/splash pad or on the area immediately surrounding the spray pad/splash pad.
 - Recreational water is not intended for drinking.
 - Do not use the spray/splash pad if you have an open sore or rash, or are experiencing nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
 - No person shall pollute the water or surface of the spray pad/splash pad in any manner or on the immediate area surrounding the spray pad/splash pad.

- Respond to fouling of spray pad/splash pads:
 - Ensure users leave the spray pad/splash pad due to fouling.
 - Drain the spray pad/splash pad and the recirculation system -E. Coil is very resistant so it takes a few laps to the drain and the chlorinator before its all killed and you're assured its killed.
 - Clean and disinfect the spray pad/splash pad and any equipment used in accordance with the centres of disease control and prevention's "fecal incident response recommendations for staff".
 - Ensure proper operation of the spray pad/splash pad prior to reopening.

BUDGET COST

TOWN PARK

Existing Paddling Pool

Repairs to existing paddling pool as detailed in review in June 2017. £45,600.00

Improvements; £73,800.00
 New changing room perimeter fencing.
 New signage

New Splash Park

New splash park off school lane (see location plan) new site. £282,800.00
 Including changing room, WC's and plant room, perimeter fencing.

STAPLE TYE PADDLING POOL – BUDGET COST

Existing Paddling pool repairs as detailed in review in June 2017 £58,630.00

Improvements: £46,860.00
 New changing room & toilets
 New handrail
 New signage
 New tree planting for shade

New splash park to replace existing paddling pool, see drawing, including changing room, WC's and plant room £203,100.00

Sums include small contingency sums but does not include Planning / Building Control fees and professional fess