

Hazard Elimination Lesson Plan to Reduce Risks (HELP Reduce Risks)

Targeted Pool Program(s): Liability

Loss / Exposure Potential:

It seems that every year, especially during the hot summer season, ACWA/JPIA gets at least one claim of someone drowning in a canal. When this happens and the lawsuit arrives, the basis of the claim is failure to warn. Simply, there were no or inadequate warning signs posted.

Loss / Reduction Measure:

Districts do "post" signs, but the signs are often stolen, faded, or used for target practice. This occurs so frequently that districts stop putting them back up.

Solano Irrigation District came up with an outstanding solution to the posting of warning and providing notice issue. See the photo below. This warning is painted at regular intervals along the canal. As a "best practice," the warning signage should not exceed _____ feet.



Other best practices and resources:

1) Check signage at least annually. Replace or refresh as needed. Typically, at the beginning of each summer season.

2) Warning signage: <http://safety-signs.com/compliancesigns.com/search?p=Q&lbc=compliancesigns&uid=685556957&ts=custom&w=No%20Swimming&isort=score&method=and&view=grid&ppc=1&af=primaryapplication:noswimmingdiving%20safetystandard:osha%20productgroup:industrialnotices%20productgroup:recreation>

3) Visit <http://www.watersafe.org/canals>