

## March 2023 - 9.1.5 - 9.1.8, 9.2.2-9.2.5 Lifeguards and Assistant Lifeguards

Welcome to the Standard of the Month! Each month, the Standards and Accreditation Committee will research and review one standard and share clarification, examples, or other helpful information regarding that standard with the ACA membership. If you have a standard you would like to know more about, email [standards@albertacamping.com](mailto:standards@albertacamping.com) to have it added to the list.

This month, we bring a number of standards surrounding the supervision of water-based / swimming activities. It has been asked if an Assistant lifeguard meets the requirements of standards 9.1.5 - 9.1.8 and 9.2.2-9.2.5, which address the need for lifeguards for various water-based activities. You may open the [full Standard of the Month PDF](#) to see these standards in full.

The Lifesaving Society are the National and Provincial Experts in Lifeguarding and Water Safety. The Lifesaving Society's National Lifeguard is the only recognized lifeguard training in Canada. The Lifesaving Society publishes Safety Standards for both pools and waterfronts which establish the industry standard for many aspects of aquatic programming, including supervision qualifications and ratios.

[The Alberta Public Pool Safety Standards](#) define an Assistant Lifeguard as (2.1.2):

Minimum age 15;

Hold a current Bronze Cross Award; and

Hold a current Alberta Workplace Approved Standard First Aid certification

These Standards also specify that "Assistant Lifeguards supplement but do not replace the need for certified Lifeguards. The number of assistant lifeguards that are utilized should never exceed the number of Lifeguards on the pool deck. Should an emergency present itself a lifeguard should be within call to respond and support the assistant lifeguard." (3.1.7)

[The Alberta Waterfront Safety Standards](#) were last updated in 2004, at which time there was no official "Assistant Lifeguard" designation. Having spoken with the Executive Director of the Alberta Branch of the Lifesaving Society, it is generally understood that Assistant Lifeguards may act in a waterfront environment in the same manner as at a pool.

In accordance with these Safety Standards and advice from the Lifesaving Society, the Alberta Camping Association will continue to support the need for certified lifeguards supervising water-based activities. The Standards and Accreditation Committee will propose an update to Standards 9.1.8 and 9.2.4 (which will also be combined into one standard under section 9.2 - Swimming) "If there are more than 30 swimmers, there must be a proportionate number of lifeguards added. The nature of the waterfront/pool area, the age of the swimmers and their proficiency in the water determines the ratio of lifeguards to swimmers" to now say "If there are more than 30 swimmers, there must be a proportionate number of lifeguards or assistant lifeguards added. The nature of the waterfront/pool area, the age of the swimmers and their proficiency in the water determines the ratio of lifeguards and assistant lifeguards to swimmers."

Once again, thank you for all you do to provide safe and fun camping experiences to Albertans!

See you next month,



**ALBERTA CAMPING**  
ASSOCIATION

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