

Vision Screening for Lifeguards

How good is your lifeguards' vision? As critical as good vision is to a lifeguard's performance, it is surprising how few programs test their lifeguards' vision.

In one study, 10% of the lifeguards tested had subpar vision (less than 20/30). More disturbing was that 17% of the lifeguards knew they needed corrective eyewear and owned prescription glasses or contact lenses, but had left them at home. One professional organization makes 20/20 vision a job qualification for lifeguards, reasoning that contacts or glasses could become dislodged during a rescue. You may want to talk with an optometrist about a simplified eye exam you can conduct at your facility.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.