



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314
Contact: Florence Higgins, NMED Field Operations
Phone: (505) 445-3621

Environment Department, Environmental Health Association Offer Pool Schools to Promote Safe and Healthy Swimming

(Santa Fe, NM) — Summer is just around the corner and that means pool season is also upon us. While public pools are a good way to cool off, health dangers can also lurk beneath the surface. Possible problems resulting from the poor operation and maintenance of public pools and spas can include bacterial infections of the skin, eyes and ears, falls caused by tripping hazards and painful abrasions from rough pool walls and bottoms.

Throughout most of the state, keeping public pool water clear, decks safe and bathhouses clean is the responsibility of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). To help owners and operators know what is expected of them, NMED and the New Mexico Environmental Health Association (NMEHA) are offering several training opportunities this spring. These basic pool and spa operation and maintenance trainings will be available on the following dates in the following locations.

April 13: Carlsbad, Great Western Inn & Suites, 3804 National Parks Highway

May 11: Las Cruces, Hilton Inn, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

May 18: Santa Fe, Las Campanas, 132 Clubhouse Dr.

June 21: Farmington, The Region Inn, 601 East Broadway

Each class runs from 8 am to 4 pm and costs \$65 per person for early registrants. Proceeds are used to fund college scholarships at state colleges and universities for persons pursuing science degrees.

Topics covered include swimming safety, chemical handling, recirculation, equipment, water testing, chemical balance, disinfection and regulations. A certification test will also be provided at the end of each training course. New pool regulations that go into effect on March 30 will require certification of operators within two years.

For further information please contact Florence Higgins at (505) 445-5330, NMEHA Vice-president, Jackie Rayburn at (505) 565-0201 or Jon Goldstein at (505) 827-0314.

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