

## *Views From the E-List\* Pool Alarms*

Query:

I caught a bit of a thread discussing pool safety, especially regarding when alone with clients in the pool. I work with all pediatric patients and could realistically get any of them out of the water without too much difficulty. However, the thought of an alarm in the case of an emergency or need to have another person in the room to help makes a lot of sense. Can anyone recommend a pool alarm that can either be worn by the therapist or kept poolside for emergencies?

Responses:

Motorola hand-held walkie-talkies work well and are affordable.

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The walkie-talkies are not always easy to get to if you are at one end of a larger pool trying to assist a patient. We use them but our pool is a small Hydroworx.

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The aquatic providers at my setting all wear a whistle instead of having to get out of the pool to get help.

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What about a good old fashion whistle. The new ones are plastic and do not have a "pea" in them, they are used by officials in VERY noisy stadium settings. Of course it wouldn't work if you were in a pool area by yourself and surely that isn't the case

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We are in the process of researching this topic as well. One of the serious paths of thought that we may go down is the "Safety Turtle". We are thinking about modifying it to be attached to the lifeguard's tube, so if the lifeguard has to jump in the water the alarm would immediately go off. (We plan to still use whistles but an alarm can or would be heard throughout the rest of our recreation center as well.) Check out the website:

<http://www.safetyturtle.com/>

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*\*Opinions and suggestions expressed in this column represent e-list member responses to the query posted. They are not represented by the Aquatic Therapy and Rehab Institute and/or the author(s) of this column as recommendations regarding appropriate practice.*