

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

Section 4.1: Lost Swimmer Plan (LSP) – Ocean Operational Variant

ACA Accreditation Target: Standard PA.3 (Emergency Procedures)

Authority Level: Immediate Deployment Directive

Operational Environment: Ocean & Beach Open Water

Review Cycle: Mandatory Annual Pre-Camp Update

PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

Because visibility variations and tidal dynamics inherently complicate open water recovery efforts, this protocol requires immediate, decentralized execution the moment a missing participant is suspected. Time-to-activation is the primary determinant of success in ocean-based missing person incidents.

CRITICAL EMERGENCY TRIGGER

If a single scheduled buddy check fails to reconcile within 45 seconds, or if any staff member observes or suspects an un-accounted-for camper in or around the water zone, the Lost Swimmer Plan (LSP) must be instantly initialized.

SIGNAL: Three long, sustained whistle blasts or a continuous, uninterrupted air-horn sequence.

PHASED EXECUTION PLAN

STEP 1 Immediate Water Evacuation & Shoreline Accountability

All active water and land personnel must instantly clear all participants from the ocean. Counselors and general shore staff will gather campers by designated cabin or unit lines on the dry sand away from the water's edge. General staff will perform an immediate, face-to-name roll-call count and cross-reference results with the beach entry gate log.

STEP 2 Deployment of Lifeguard Subsurface Sweep Lines

The Waterfront Director or designated Incident Commander will organize all rescue-certified aquatic personnel into a tightly spaced, parallel human sweep chain. Lifeguards equipped with masks and snorkels must enter the water immediately at the missing camper's last known position, executing continuous surface dives. The sweep line must advance outward, trailing with the prevailing ocean drift, lateral currents, and tidal flow.

STEP 3 Activation of Emergency Medical & Maritime Services

Concurrently with Step 2, a designated shore administrator or assistant director must immediately dial 911. Dispatch operators must be explicitly notified that this is an *open-water ocean missing person incident*. Staff must request immediate deployment from local marine patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard, or regional fire-rescue dive assets, providing exact beach access coordinates and noted current drift direction.

STEP 4 Securing Perimeter and Access Routes

Counseling personnel must escort all cleared, accounted-for campers completely away from the active beach area and back to a secure inland camp structure. This keeps dry visual fields open for search operators and guarantees absolute, unobstructed route clearance for incoming emergency response vehicles and heavy maritime machinery.

ACA Visitor Evaluation Compliance

This document must be pulled from general manuals and mounted in plain sight at the primary lifeguard tower or waterfront check-in kiosk. Per ACA standard PA.3, the on-site accreditation visitor team will evaluate your staff's real-time physical execution of this specific protocol during unannounced emergency drills. Documentation proving all waterfront staff have rehearsed this sequence prior to camp opening must be filed alongside this emergency template.