

June 27, 2014

<b>DIRECTIVE:</b>	<b>JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 13-64</b>
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**TO:** ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS  
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS  
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

**FROM:** LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS  
Acting National Director  
Office of Job Corps

**SUBJECT:** 2014 Summer Safety Reminder

1. **Purpose.** To remind the Job Corps community to prepare for summer weather hazards, and to reiterate the importance of water safety, and preventing heat-related illness.
2. **Background.** Summer weather conditions such as thunderstorms, lightning, hurricanes, and tornadoes are common hazards. Additionally, other dangers associated with summer include heat-related illness, poisonous snake and bug bites, and waterborne illness transmitted through public swimming pools.

**Storm Safety.** According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service (NWS), there were 23 reported lightning-related fatalities in the United States in 2013. As of June 13, 2014, there have been six reported fatalities in the U.S.: four in Florida; one in Texas; and one in New Mexico. According to the NWS, Florida is top among the five most lightning-prone states, followed by Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas.

For more information, refer to Job Corps Program Instruction Notice No. 13-01, “Thunderstorms, Lighting, and Tornadoes,” and <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/index.htm>.

**“Water. Rest. Shade.”** In 2011, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) launched a campaign to educate employers about the dangers of working in hot weather. The campaign slogan, “Water. Rest. Shade.,” encourages frequent hydration, and rest in shade. Job Corps students and staff members are urged to report symptoms of heat illness early, and to know how to respond in an emergency. OSHA has developed tools that use the heat index to determine the risk for heat-related illness; how to protect against them; and how to respond. For more information, refer to Job Corps Information Notice No.12-64, “Preventing

Heat-Related Illness Reminder – OSHA National Outreach Campaign 2013,” and <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html>.

**Water Safety.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) drowning is the fifth-leading cause of death in the United States, with roughly 10 deaths per day annually. The CDC analyzed mortality data for a 12-year period, and discovered drownings were most frequent among those ages 5 to 19 years old. Researchers recommended drowning-prevention strategies such as having basic swimming instruction, lifeguarding, or supervised water-related activities. Knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is also recommended. For more information, refer to Job Corps Information Notice No. 12-59, “2013 Water Safety,” and the Gilchrist and Parker study, [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6319a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6319a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6319a2.htm?s_cid=mm6319a2_w).

**The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (Pool and Spa Safety Act) of 2007,** named after 7-year-old Virginia Graeme Baker who was killed when she became trapped underwater in a family friend’s spa, became effective December 19, 2008. The Pool and Spa Safety Act requires all pools and spas in the United States to have anti-entrapment drain covers. The Pool and Spa Safety Act applies to all pools, including public, members-only, residential, and hotel pools; pools operated by the Federal government, including those at military installations, Regional Offices, and apprenticeship and technical training facilities; and Job Corps centers. For more information, see Job Corps Information Notice No. 10-94, “Water Safety 2011,” <http://www.poolsafely.gov/pool-spa-safety-act/virginia-graeme-baker/>, and <http://www.poolsafely.gov/pool-spa-safety-act/read/>.

**Venomous Spiders and Snakes.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 25 fatalities from bites or stings were reported in 2011. Also in that year, poison control centers in the U.S., received 66,000 calls regarding bites or venom poisoning. Although outdoor workers are at greater risk of incurring bites and stings, venomous snakes and spiders find their way inside. Job Corps centers should be aware of venomous spiders and snakes native to their locations, and be knowledgeable of what to do in case of a bite. For more information, refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/spiders/>, and <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/snakes/>.

3. **Action.** In accordance with Job Corps Program Requirements Handbook Section 5.20, R3, “Emergency Action Plan,” centers should ensure their policies and procedures address summer safety hazards. Students and staff members must report heat illness, spider or snake bites, and waterborne illness to center medical staff. Pool drain covers should be inspected to ensure they comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker requirements. Pool drains that do not meet requirements should be replaced. Centers operating swimming pools should follow CDC and local guidance on pool water quality, and the prevention of waterborne illnesses.

The following resources assist centers with developing water-safety plans:

- The Weather Channel, Lightning Safety Tips, [http://www.weather.com/life/safety/thunderstorm/article/thunderstorms-indoor-lightning-safety\\_2011-10-07](http://www.weather.com/life/safety/thunderstorm/article/thunderstorms-indoor-lightning-safety_2011-10-07)

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Acclimatizing Workers, [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat\\_index/acclimatizing\\_workers.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/acclimatizing_workers.html)
- Computer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Recall of Pool Drain Covers: Frequently Asked Questions, <https://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2011/Frequently-Asked-Questions/>
- Poolsafely.gov, “Drain Covers and You Safety” video, <http://www.poolsafely.gov/pool-safely-videos/drain-covers-safety-video/>
- Venombyte.com, Venomous Snakes Found in Each State, [http://www.venombyte.com/venom/snakes/venomous\\_snakes\\_by\\_state.asp](http://www.venombyte.com/venom/snakes/venomous_snakes_by_state.asp)
- Venombyte.com, Venomous Spiders Found in Each State, [http://www.venombyte.com/venom/spiders/venomous\\_spiders\\_by\\_state.asp](http://www.venombyte.com/venom/spiders/venomous_spiders_by_state.asp)

Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.
5. Inquiries. Direct all inquiries to Marsha Fitzhugh at (202) 693-3099 or [fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov](mailto:fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov).