The Codeword is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to make clear acceptable practice.

No: CW 1014-001, rev 1

Issued: November 1, 2005

Revised: May 10, 2015

Subject: Swimming Pool Enclosure Emergency Egress

Code Ref: IFC 2012 Section 1014 and International Property Maintenance Code Section 303.2.

Question: What is the exit gate requirement for a swimming pool fence enclosure?

Answer: Swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48 inches (1219 mm) in height above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier away from the pool.

Each barrier or fence enclosure shall have at least one self-closing and self-latching gate or door installed with the swing direction away from the pool, hot tub, or spa.

A self-latching device shall be installed at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the bottom of the gate, with the release mechanism located on the pool side of the gate.

Self-closing and self-latching gates shall be maintained such that the gate will positively close and latch when released from an open position of 6 inches (152 mm) from the gatepost.

Exception: One-family residential pools, along with hot tubs and spas that have a safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346 are not required to have barriers or egress gates.

* * *

Building Official
Harris County Texas

Fire Marshal
Harris County, Texas

If you have any questions about this CODEWORD, please contact us at firecode@hcpid.org or fmosupport@fmo.hctx.net