



Health & Safety Department (Safety Section)

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Document History Log

Any modification to the document must be reviewed and approved as per the corporate policies and procedures of document control

Version #	Date	Prepared/reviewed by	Modifications summary
2.0	11 th March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhayagshree Nagvenkar Omar Gouda 	Shifting to a new corporate template & content's grammar revision





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1 Purpose

The purpose of this technical guideline is to provide safety requirements in public areas containing water features to ensure the safety of the public against the potential associated health risks.

2 Scope

All Water features in public areas in the emirates of Dubai as defined below (except for public and private swimming pools). This scope is defined under the following legislation: Local Order No. (11) of 2003 Concerning Public Health and Community Safety in the Emirate of Dubai.

3 Definitions



Water features	Water features are architectural designs involving water designated for recreational and landscaping purposes such as artificial ponds - fountains – waterfalls and other designs.

4 Safety Requirements

4-1 Location

- The location of the water features should be visible to facilitate rescue operations for individuals who might be at risk.
- Trees, shrubs, and other means close to the line of sight must not obscure the water feature visibility.
- The location of the water features must be isolated from any kid's play area.

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- Secure all water features and prevent access of unauthorized personnel, especially features that have official working hours.



4-2 Design

- Water features should be designed so that edges are low depth (shallow), while the deeper zone must be positioned far from the edges to ensure that they are inaccessible.
- Water features without fences or protection (in open areas), depth should be kept as shallow as possible and must not exceed 50 cm at its deepest point.
- A risk assessment must be carried out for water features located in public areas and identify the need for the protective fence provision.
- A protective fence should be provided for high-risk sites as one of the additional control measures to reduce the risk.
- The surrounding area of the water features should be flat. However, where this is not possible, the sides must be secured against slipping hazard, and sloped gradually to the edge.
- The surrounding area of the water feature should be free of obstacles that may cause potential risks to public safety.
- The edges of the water features must be clearly visible.
- A suitable and safe means of access must be provided in case they need to perform maintenance operations.
- Ensure electrical safety requirements during installation and maintenance of electrical equipment and connections by competent personnel.
- Water features must be provided with sufficient illumination.

4-3 Owners & Operators Responsibilities

- Always provide adequate supervision
- The property owner/management must conduct risk assessments of water features and all associated activities as well as provide the output of risk assessment and taken control measures to all employees supervising water features activities.
- Qualifying and training site supervisors on the required safety procedures.

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- Provide appropriate warning and precautionary signs to the public regarding safety rules and in appropriate languages.
- The water feature and its surroundings must be regularly maintained.
- Maintain the treatment process of plant growth and sediments on a regular basis.
- Perform periodic cleaning and disinfection of water features and water treatment according to the Technical Guidelines of the Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems issued by Dubai Municipality (DM-HSD-GU44-LCWS2).
- The water feature that produces spray or aerosol should be maintained and kept clean.
- Water sample testing should be conducted according to DM technical guidelines.
- The property owner/ management must develop an emergency action plan for incidents associated with the water features. At the very least this should cover:
 - Rescue operations within the water features
 - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid
 - How to call for assistance/help
 - Incident details reporting to relevant government entities.



4-4 Public Responsibilities (visitors of public areas)

- Compliance with safety instructions issued by water features management for their safety.
- Parents are requested to monitor their children all the time during their presence in public areas containing water features, and not to leave them alone unattended to ensure their safety.

5 Suggestions/Observations/Complaints

- Unified interactive platform that connects Dubai Government and its customers: The 04 Platform <https://04.gov.ae/>
- Dubai Municipality - Call Center (24/7): 800900

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6 References

- Local Order No. (11) of 2003 Concerning Public Health and Community Safety in the Emirate of Dubai.
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/530867/SAFETY_GUIDELINES_For_Ponds_1_archived23june2016.pdf
- DM-HSD-GU44-LCWS2_Technical Guidelines for Legionella Control in Water System_V3

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