

Safety Tip of the Month – November 2006
VSI Safety Committee
“Pre-Meet Safety Check”

It is time for your first home swim meet and you have been asked to oversee safety factors for your two day event. You have at least two marshals for each session, but you have not had a chance to walk through the facility. What areas do you want to evaluate in the pool and surrounding area, BEFORE the first day of your swim meet?

Below are ten areas to focus on to enhance safety during your swim meet. You may have additional safety attributes, to add to this list. If you do, please send to the VSI Safety Committee (care of [David Strider](#)).

1. Are there any unwrapped / uncovered metal lane line cables at the start or turn ends of the pool?
2. Are all electrical outlets grounded (GFI)?
3. Is the cable leading from starter to harness start outlet and the cable from harness end to the timing equipment module covered with a mat or towel where they cross the floor on the pool deck?
4. Opening and closing doors contributes to a significant number of injured swimmers at swim meets. Is there a way to prop open some doors for the duration of the meet?
5. Are the parking lot and the adjacent yard(s) relatively free of debris, including broken glass and heavy road equipment?
6. Are the exit signs well positioned so that anyone in the crowd could see them?
7. What is the actual depth of the pool at both the start end and the turn end (measured from top of water to the bottom of pool)? Does it meet minimum requirements?
8. If there is a diving board at the starting end of the pool, be sure to have it folded as much out of the way as possible.
9. No glass or porcelain devices should be permitted on the pool deck.
10. If there are inside stairs leading to the competitive pool, make sure that there are treads on the stairs to minimize slipping or a fall.