Our goal is to make sure every community member has a safe and rewarding aquatic experience.

The City of Boulder is focused on the safety of community members when swimming at Scott Carpenter and Spruce Pools. If there is inclement weather, staff members will use the following procedures to determine if a pool should have a late opening, temporarily close, have reduced amenities, or be closed for the day. Staff may shift outdoor pool operations to indoor pools to keep our pools open as much as possible.

THUNDER AND/OR LIGHTNING

The city uses the WeatherBug app, to track nearby lightning strikes. When thunder or lightning is first detected by a supervisor, all pool activities will be suspended.

The pool must remain cleared for 30 minutes after the most recent lightning strike within seven miles of the pool. Patrons must remain at least 50 feet away from the edge of the pool.

The entire pool area will be cleared, and patrons will not be allowed near water pipes (showers), gas lines, electric wiring and telephone wiring. (Swimming pools are connected to a much larger surface area via underground). Lightning strikes on the ground anywhere on this metallic network may include shocks elsewhere.

If weather conditions continue to decline, the aquatic facility may be evacuated, and daily operations will be canceled.

RAIN AND WIND

Heavy rain can make it difficult to see the bottom of a pool or beneath the surface. If heavy rain causes bottom obstruction, pools will be cleared and closed until the rain stops.

Wind can also cause safety hazards. If wind is observably strong or gusty and causes bottom obstruction due to water rippling, pools will be cleared and closed until conditions allow.

POOL TEMPERATURE

Pools will close if the water temperature drops below the state code limit of 77°.

AIR TEMPERATURE

Scott Carpenter Pool will open for lap swim when the air temperature is forecasted to reach 50° by opening. If air temperature is not 50° at opening, we will reevaluate the forecast to determine if a late opening is possible.

If the air temperature is expected to fall and remain below 50°, the pool may close early at the discretion of the Aquatics Supervisor.

Spruce Pool and the Leisure Pool at Scott Carpenter Park will open for open swim if the air temperature reaches 65° by opening, but we may alter the pools' opening factoring in other weather conditions. We will reevaluate opening based on the forecast to determine if a late opening is possible. The head lifeguard will determine when the pool will re-open.

Closures are at the Aquatic Supervisor's discretion. They take all weather factors into consideration when making the decision to close.

SPRUCE POOL SWIM LESSON CANCELLATIONS

Spruce Pool swim lessons will be canceled if the temperature is not forecasted to reach 65° by the start of the class. We will evaluate the forecast, but we may alter which lessons are possible factoring in other weather conditions.

Lessons that are scheduled to start after hourly temperature predictions reach 65° will start as scheduled. Cancellations will be handled by the Aquatics Specialist and Customer Service Representatives.

RAIN CHECKS

We will issue rain checks (valid for another visit within 90 days) if the pool closes due to weather for more than two hours, and it is before 5 p.m. Rain checks will not be issued after 5 p.m.

When outdoor facilities close due to inclement weather, we will offer reentry slips (valid same day only) to our visitors to take advantage of one of our indoor aquatic facilities.