

To:

FOIP Act section 17(1)

Cc: Council

From: Matthew Goudy, CAO
City of Lacombe

Reference: 11/154/2019-156

Date: May 2, 2019

RE: Slippery Floor Tiles in Pool Change Rooms

Thank you for your written concern regarding slippery floor tiles in the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre (KAC) change rooms, which we received on April 17, 2019. Staff also received a query on the matter from a City Councillor and another citizen and have heard the concern in conversations with pool patrons.

Pools are facilities with high slip and fall incident rates caused in part by wet tile floors, and KAC staff try many ways to help prevent incidents including:

- Posting caution signs in every change room
- Encouraging patrons to wear non-slip footwear
- Placing mats in the most inundated floor areas to lift patrons off the wet tile
- Checking change-room floors and wiping pooled water away at a reasonable frequency
- Applying anti-slip treatment to the floors yearly and measuring traction before and after

In particular, the anti-slip tile treatment first applied in September 2018 elevated the traction rating of wet KAC change-room floors into the “safe” range from the prior “caution” range measured with the American National Standards Institute specifications for wet ceramic tile.

The City consulted with its insurer at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association who examined membership claims history with regards to slip and falls in pool/aquatic facilities, going back to 2003. We received the following response: *“We [AUMA insurance] are averaging about one slip and fall claim inside a pool facility a year, all members combined.... Lacombe hasn’t had a claim in over 10 years, so frequency isn’t something that we are worried about at this time.... Currently Lacombe is doing a good job of managing their pool facility risks exposures.”*

As a result of recent complaints, the City closely reviewed its last Aquatic Safety Audit on the KAC, issued in 2018. The Royal Lifesaving Society Canada conducts these audits and examines the KAC in detail against numerous aquatic regulatory safety standards. The audit did not identify the change-room floor tiles as hazardous for slip and falls, noting only that in specific places damaged tile was in need of repair. The City hopes to publish the full 2018 Aquatic Safety Audit on our website in the near future.



Thank you again for expressing your concerns so that I could provide you and others with this information.

Sincerely,

FOIP Act section 17(1)



Matthew Goudy, P.Eng
Chief Administrative Officer