



City of Austin
Planning Development Review Department

To: Electrical Inspection Customers and Associates
From: Leon Barba, P.E., Building Official
Planning Development Review Department
Date: July 14, 2010
File: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2010-0002

TITLE: Emergency Shut Off Switch

CODE EDITION: 2008 National Electric Code (NEC) as amended by COA

SECTIONS: 680.41 Emergency Switch for Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs.

PURPOSE: Is the intent of the 2008 NEC, Code Section 680.41 as adopted to require an Emergency Switch for “Splash Pads” which are not a Pool, Spa or a Hot Tub

No. The emergency switch is required only on pools, spas and hot tubs. The switch is only required where an entrapment hazard may exist.

1. The provisions of 680.41 require a local disconnecting device for pools, spas and hot tubs that is capable of being used in an emergency. This requirement was added to address entrapment hazards associated with pools, spas and hot tubs.
 - a. The definitive publication on this issue, Guideline for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer (Pub. No. 363), is available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, or on-line at www.cpsc.gov.
2. The possibility of entrapment on a “Splash Pad” cannot exist due to no pumping of drainage or circulation of water located in the “Splash Pad”.

Leon Barba P.E., Building Official
City of Austin - Planning Development Review Department