



# 2025 CHICAGO RIVER SWIM

## EVENT OVERVIEW, SAFETY AND CONTINGENCY PLAN

Date: Sunday, Sep 21, 2025

Start: 7:00 AM

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# EVENT OVERVIEW

The Chicago River Swim (CRS) is a proposed open water swim to be held in the Chicago River. The inaugural Chicago River Swim, held on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at Ohio Street Beach, was an overwhelming success.

Although the event was relocated from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan due to safety concerns and logistical challenges, it still drew remarkable support. Despite the change in venue, the event stayed true to its mission of creating a safe, world-class athlete event, supporting ALS research, and providing water safety education for underserved communities.

Notable accomplishments from the 2024 event include:

- **\$150,000** donated to Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine for ALS research
- **\$50,000** donated to the Pullman neighborhood Kroc Center for swim lessons for 2,000 inner-city youth
- More than **1,060 applicants** from 12 countries, 39 states, and 56 of Chicago’s 77 neighborhoods
- News story pick-ups from more than 300 outlets and a global media reach of more than **1 billion people**

Organizers remain optimistic about the future and are hopeful that the 2025 event will take place in the Chicago River, making it a historic event that celebrates athleticism and shines a spotlight on the ongoing efforts to restore and revitalize the Chicago River. The proposed event schedule includes:

## 2025 CHICAGO RIVER SWIM

Sunday, September 21

5:30 AM	Chicago River Closes to all vessel traffic
7:00 AM	Swim Start: Long Distance
7:30 AM	Finish Festival Opens
8:00 AM	Swim Start: Short Distance
9:15 AM	All Swimmers Finished (estimated)
9:30 AM	Awards Ceremony
10:00 AM	All event equipment clear, Chicago River reopens to vessel traffic
10:30 AM	Finish Festival concludes

Field Size:	500 participants (250 each distance)
Distances:	1-mile and 2-miles (2 loops)

The charitable event is owned and operated by *A Long Swim*, a Chicago area non-profit organization, and plans to become an annual date on Chicago’s sports calendar, similar to the Chicago Triathlon or the Chicago Marathon.

# HISTORY

Chicago has a long history of competitive swimming in the Chicago River (see photo). Swims in the Chicago River were initiated to celebrate the marked improvement in the quality of the water in the river, largely because of the reversal of its flow in 1900.

The swims were hosted by the Illinois Athletic Club until the 1920s and drew the highest profile swimmers of the day, including Johnny Weissmuller and Buster Crabbe. In later years, water quality in the river deteriorated and the swims were discontinued.

The second turnaround of the Chicago River began in the 1970s. Fifty years later, through concentrated efforts, the Chicago River is now at its cleanest levels on record and again a source of pride for its city.

Tremendous public and private support stand behind the River Swim concept, with pent-up demand from hundreds of experienced swimmers.



Then as now, the route of the Chicago River through the heart of the city offers an iconic view of Chicago, and a proposed swim event is destined to raise interest and change perceptions of the city’s iconic waterway.

EVENT DISTANCES

The Chicago River Swim will offer a select group of athletes a once-in-a-lifetime experience swimming in the Main Channel. Qualified participants may select from two swim distances: a 1-mile or 2-mile looped course. Each distance will support a field of 250 swimmers and be monitored by dozens of watercraft and more than 100 safety personnel.

SWIM DISTANCE OPTIONS	
<b>LONG COURSE: 2 MILES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Start: 7:00 AM @ Tiny Tapp</li><li>Finish: 9:15 AM @ Tiny Tapp</li><li>Start Format: Wave Start</li><li>Experience Required: 2-mile swim</li></ul>	<b>SHORT COURSE: 1 MILE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Start: 8:00 AM @ City Winery</li><li>Finish: 9:15 AM @ Tiny Tapp</li><li>Start Format: Time Trial</li><li>Experience Required: 1-mile swim</li></ul>

INITIAL PLANNING EFFORTS

In pursuit of obtaining access to the river in 2025, the Chicago River Swim continues to engage with a number of city departments, Aldermen, city staff, property owners, river businesses and community stakeholders to learn of concerns and other issues with regard to a River Swim. Those findings are summarized in the Event Safety and Water Quality portions of this document.

Over the past seven years, a number of experts have been engaged, both formally and informally, to further development and obtain approval of this event:

Chief Bryant Krizik  
A 30+ year veteran in emergency management and response. Chief Krizik serves as safety and contingency director for prominent national events, including the Chicago Triathlon, SailGP, ITU World Triathlon, Chicago Half Marathon and Miami Marathon, working alongside CPD, CFD, DCASE, OEMC, and the US Coast Guard.

Pete Mulvaney  
Pete is a water quality consultant and former City of Chicago Infrastructure Director whose coordinated Water Quality plan. Pete works with the MWRD, EPA and Friends of the Chicago River.

Scott “Hootie” Hutmacher  
Scott brings 20 years of experience in endurance event development, specifically open water swims and triathlons. He has overseen prestigious events like the Chicago, South Beach and New York City Triathlons. Hootie also operates Open Water Swim Chicago, one of the nation’s largest swim programs developing 20,000 new swimmers since 2012.

Renowned Event Directors  
For additional insight, CRS has actively sought the guidance of event directors of urban triathlons and swims around the world, of similar water traffic and quality, many of which share some of the same challenges that the Chicago River presents. Event directors from New York, Boston, Portland, San Francisco, London, Paris and Amsterdam were particularly helpful.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

The Chicago River Swim is dedicated to operating a completely safe event, and simultaneously acknowledges that no swim is ever risk-free. In an attempt to best mitigate risk, CRS continues to thoroughly plan with local authorities, inform aforementioned government and civic stakeholders, and consult with national event and emergency experts.

The primary safety concerns raised during initial meetings are outlined below, with detailed contingencies discussed throughout this document (see Table of Contents for specific areas).

Ultimately, the CRS Event Safety Plan aims to deliver a better-than-best industry practice by adopting similar precautions common to similar events but integrating support personnel and watercraft on a much larger scale. Many of these practices were implemented in the 2024 Chicago River Swim and will be applied to the Chicago River-based operation.

CHICAGO RIVER SWIM SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS	
CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
Participant Proficiency	The event remains limited to 500 participants, each of whom will be pre-qualified as experienced open water and/or triathlon swimmers of similar distances and conditions with minimum pace per mile requirements. Much like 2024, waivers will be required.
In-Water Support	The CRS water Safety Plan calls for more in-water support than any other event of a similar nature. The CRS plans to post 34 Lifeguards (spaced approximately every 25 meters along the course), 13 land-based Spotters at elevated positions, 40 Kayaks station around the perimeter, and 6 stationary Safety Boats lining the River's midline to support logistics (relative to public safety approval). Additional safety vessels (2-4) for extraction and River control (TBD via USCG and other agencies) will be added to these counts. Although the longest course is two miles long, the course footprint utilizes only 800 meters (1/2 mile) of the river.
Swimmer Visibility	All participants will have shoulder and hand tattoos applied, and are required to wear a brightly-colored, numbered, inflatable swim buoy. These were implemented into the 2024 event and provided enhanced visibility to safety personnel during a dreary event.
Swimmer Tracking	This event will again utilize RFID chip technology, which monitors participant movement in the water at various checkpoints throughout the swim course in real-time.
Extraction Points	The proposed swim course will be divided into three zones, with up to seven (7) dedicated extraction points to support emergencies or event stoppage, and 14 egress points along the Riverwalk (more egress points than the 2024 Ohio Street Beach course).
Submerged Obstructions	In advance of the event, and in coordination with local authorities, CRS initiated a full, underwater, side-scan sonar capture of the Riverwalk. Results confirmed there are no obvious obstructions and/or unknown impairments beneath the surface that would impact normal swimming operations. Findings were shared with the Chicago Fire Department and local public service personnel. See Exhibit D on p.38 for details.
Water Current	The Chicago River Swim team will work with the MWRD to eliminate or best minimize any possible current in the water.
Water Cleanliness	<p>The CRS will only operate if waters are deemed safe for human exposure. This is a primary function of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), the water quality authority for the Chicago River who publishes water quality data.</p> <p>The CRS continues to work with local waterway experts (including Friends of the Chicago River, Current, and MWRD) to advise event leadership team. Third-party water testing will be conducted and shared with the public at various points prior to the event.</p>
Invasive Watercraft	<p>The river will be closed to all commercial and recreational boat traffic under U.S. Coast Guard authority, although the western/northern sections of the river will remain operational for safety watercraft.</p> <p>The event timing is specifically chosen to avoid commercial boat traffic and will be coordinated with the Chicago Harbor Safety Committee and the USCG.</p>
Copycat Swimming	<p>CRS will emphasize the special permission and safety measures undertaken to produce this event, as well as reiterate that swimming in any natural body of water is never allowed without city approval and lifeguards present.</p> <p>Similar situations where special events are held in non-traditional swimming venues in New York City (Hudson River), Amsterdam (Amstel River), Austin (Colorado River), Tempe (Town Lake), etc., have resulted in minimal issues.</p>
Spectator Safety	To mitigate potential congestion and/or safety issues, Riverwalk access will be divided into three zones: Athletes only, Immediate Family only, and the General Public. See the Security Plan on p.21 for details.

The CRS fully intends this event to be successful and to bring positive awareness to the City of Chicago and its growing riverbank economic impact, river system, clean water initiatives, and safe commercial and recreational use as the next logical step in showcasing the Chicago Area Water Systems (CAWS).



## BENEFICIARIES

The Chicago River Swim is organized as a non-profit, philanthropic event designed to generate funds for two key beneficiaries:

- A Long Swim is a 501(c)3 local charity that supports collaborative ALS research performed at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. A Long Swim has raised more than \$2,000,000 for them to date, including \$150,000 from the 2024 CRS. Details at [www.ALongSwim.org](http://www.ALongSwim.org).
- Additional Youth Learn-to-Swim Programs: Not everyone in Chicago is able to enjoy swimming, simply because they never had the opportunity to learn that important life skill. As a result, Chicago River Swim has dedicated itself to fund a learn to swim program through local experts. In addition to the \$50,000 donated to the Kroc Center in 2024, our goal is to continue providing funds for 2,000 Chicago children each year of operation.

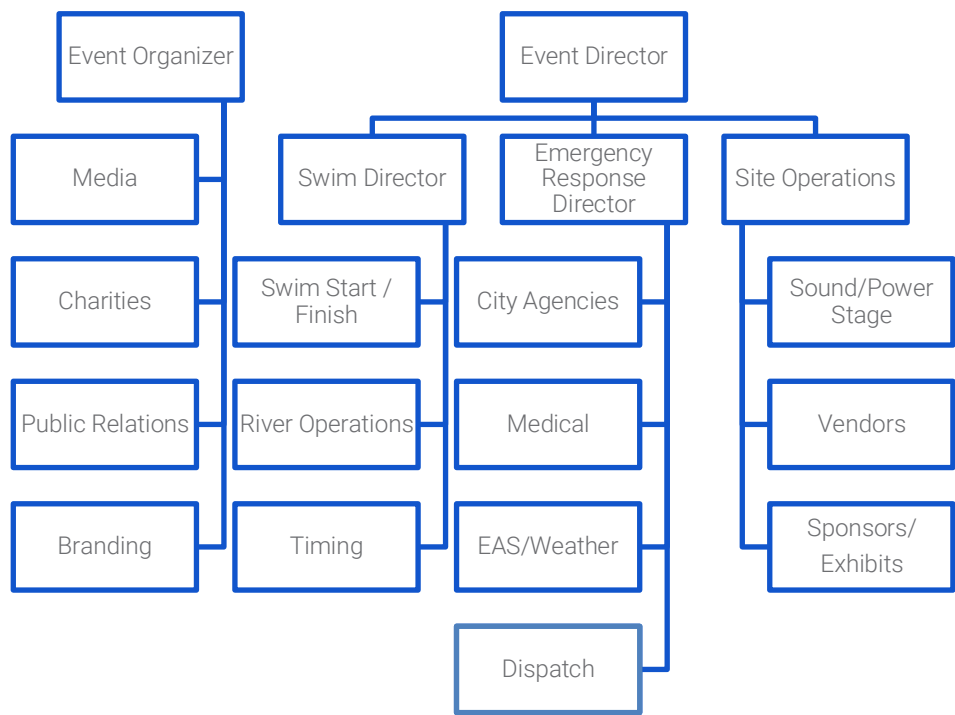
## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Event Organizers wish to thank the following contributors who lent countless ideas, opinions, time, and guidance in development of this plan:

A Long Swim	Illinois EPA
Argonne National Laboratories (ANL)	Jacobs Engineering
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)	Keystone Capital
Chicago Fire Department (CFD)	Magellan Development
Chicago Harbor Safety Committee	Margaret Frisbie
Chicago Loop Alliance	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago
Chicago Office of Emergency Management (OEMC)	Michigan Avenue Merchants Association
Chicago Park District	MWRD Commissioner Josina Morita
Chicago Police Department (CPD)	Northwestern University
Chicago Rowing & Paddle Center	Open Water Swim CHICAGO
Chicago Triathlon	Recovery on Water (ROW)
Chicago's First Lady	Tiny Tapp
City of Chicago	Tri-Masters Sports Initiatives
Current	United States Coast Guard
Davis Harrison Dion Advertising	United States EPA
DCASE	Urban Tri Gear
East Bank Club	US Masters Swimming
Friends of the Chicago River	USA Swimming
Harry Carey's Restaurant Group	Various Chicago Aldermen and Staff
HBK Engineering	Various State Representatives and Senators
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)	Vissant Capital

# EVENT ORGANIZATION

The Chicago River Swim operation is structured with a traditional event command organization:



KEY EVENT PERSONNEL	
ROLE	INDIVIDUAL
Event Organizers (EO)	<p>Doug McConnell: Co-founder of A Long Swim and a competitive swimmer for more than 50 years. Doug is a world-class swimmer who has swum across the English Channel, the Catalina Channel, around Manhattan Island, and the length of Tampa Bay to support the cause for which he is so committed.</p> <p>Clif Wilson: Clif has had a career of experience in media sales and crafting sponsorship partnerships, and been a driving factor in the Chicago River Swim for 6+ years.</p>
Event Director (ED)	<p>Scott "Hootie" Hutmacher: Brings 20 years of experience in marketing, media and production on hundreds of sporting events, including the Chicago and New York City Triathlons, the Chicago and Miami Marathons, SailGP, etc.</p> <p>Hootie directed the 2024 CRS, and also operates Open Water Swim Chicago -- one of the nation's largest open water swim programs developing 20,000 new adult swimmers since 2012.</p>
Emergency Response Director (ERD)	<p>Chief Bryant Krizik: A 30-year career firefighter, paramedic and emergency planning expert. Bryant has managed contingency programming for many of the nation's most prestigious mass-participation events, including the 2024 Chicago River Swim.</p>

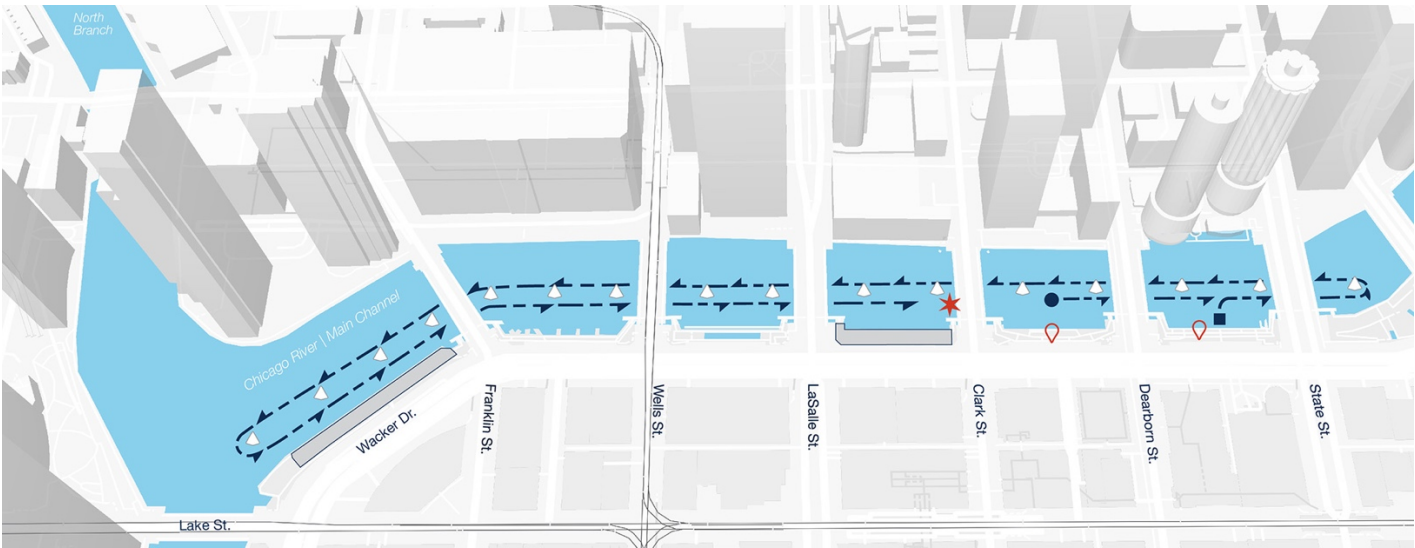
# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & MAP

The Chicago River Swim will be confined to an 800 meter (1/2 mile) long stretch along the southern half of the Main Channel, between Wolf Point (to the west) and the State Street Bridge (to the east). The event will host two swim distances using the same footprint:

SWIM DISTANCE OPTIONS	
<b>LONG COURSE: 2 MILES (2 loops)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Start: 7:00 AM @ Tiny Tapp</li><li>Finish: 9:15 AM @ Tiny Tapp</li><li>Start Format: Wave Start</li><li>Experience Required: 2-mile swim</li></ul>	<b>SHORT COURSE: 1 MILE (1 loop)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Start: 8:00 AM @ City Winery</li><li>Finish: 9:15 AM @ Tiny Tapp</li><li>Start Format: Time Trial</li><li>Experience Required: 1-mile swim</li></ul>

The long course (2 mile) swimmers will begin at 7:00 AM near Tiny Tapp at 55 West Wacker Drive. Long course swimmers will complete two loops along the counterclockwise course and finish at the River Theater at the Clark St Bridge. Short course (1 mile) participants will start at 8:00 AM from the Riverwalk near City Winery (11 W. Wacker) using the same counterclockwise flow, completing a single loop and finishing at the Clark St. Bridge.

Reference the Course Map below for details. A full map is included in Exhibit C.



## SWIM COURSE LOGISTICS

### Start Process: Long Course

Early on event morning, all long course swimmers will check-in aboard a large vessel docked in front of City Winery, between the Dearborn and State Street Bridges. Participants will grab a snack, use the restrooms and check any non-swim gear before walking one block west to the Swim Start area near the Tiny Tapp. A final safety briefing will be hosted prior to the start.

The 250 long course swimmers will be staged in one of five start waves, predetermined by estimated pace. The first wave of 50 participants will cross a timing mat, enter the water (feet first), advance 70' to the swim start buoys and be released on a starter's horn. Once the first group is released, the next wave will enter the water and repeat the process. Waves will begin every 3 minutes. The final wave will begin at 7:16 AM. All swimmers must complete their event by 10:00 AM when the river reopens to vessels traffic or risk being pulled from the water.

Upon their start, swimmers will proceed east and make their way to the first turnaround beyond the State St Bridge. Swimmers will then head west to the second turnaround at Wolf Point. Swimmers will follow normal rules of traffic, staying to the right of the buoy line (buoys on the left) through the course. Kayaks, paddle boards and other watercraft will ensure swimmers stay on course and provide aid as needed.

The long course swimmers will complete two full loops before passing by the River Theater and finishing under the Clark Street Bridge. From there, event staff will direct them to the Swim Exit area in front of the Tiny Tapp. Finish hydration, towels, snacks, fresh water showers and medical support will be provided at the Swim Exit area. Participants will return to the vessel to retrieve their personal belongings. Private security will control access points between the two locations.



## Start Process: Short Course

While the long course swimmers are in the water, the 250 short course swimmers will check-in aboard the same vessel docked in front of the City Winery. Participants will grab a snack, use the restrooms and check their non-swim gear. Because the Swim Exit area (in front of Tiny Tapp) will be in use by the long course swimmers, the short course swimmers will remain on-board and eventually start their event directly from the vessel's starboard side. A final safety briefing will be hosted prior to the start.

Due to space limitations, the short course athletes will begin in a time-trial format. Two swimmers will approach a doorway on the lower deck, cross a timing mat and jump 3' down into the water (feet first). This process will repeat every 5 seconds. The final short course swimmers will enter the water by 8:16 AM.

The short course swimmers will proceed 70' north, then turn right (east) to enter the main section of the course. Short course swimmers will follow the same path as the long course swimmers, only completing a single loop before finishing at the Clark St. Bridge and using the same Swim Exit process. All swimmers must complete their event by 10:00 AM when the river reopens to vessel traffic.

## Swim Course Assets

The Swim Course will be well-marked and supported. Nine large, inflatable buoys will be positioned every 100 meters, stretching the entire 800m course. Any potential swim hazards (inlets, alcoves, docked vessels, etc.) will be marked and protected by spotter kayaks who can intercept swimmers with little impact. Kayaks will line the perimeter of the course, ensuring swimmers stay in their respective swim lane.

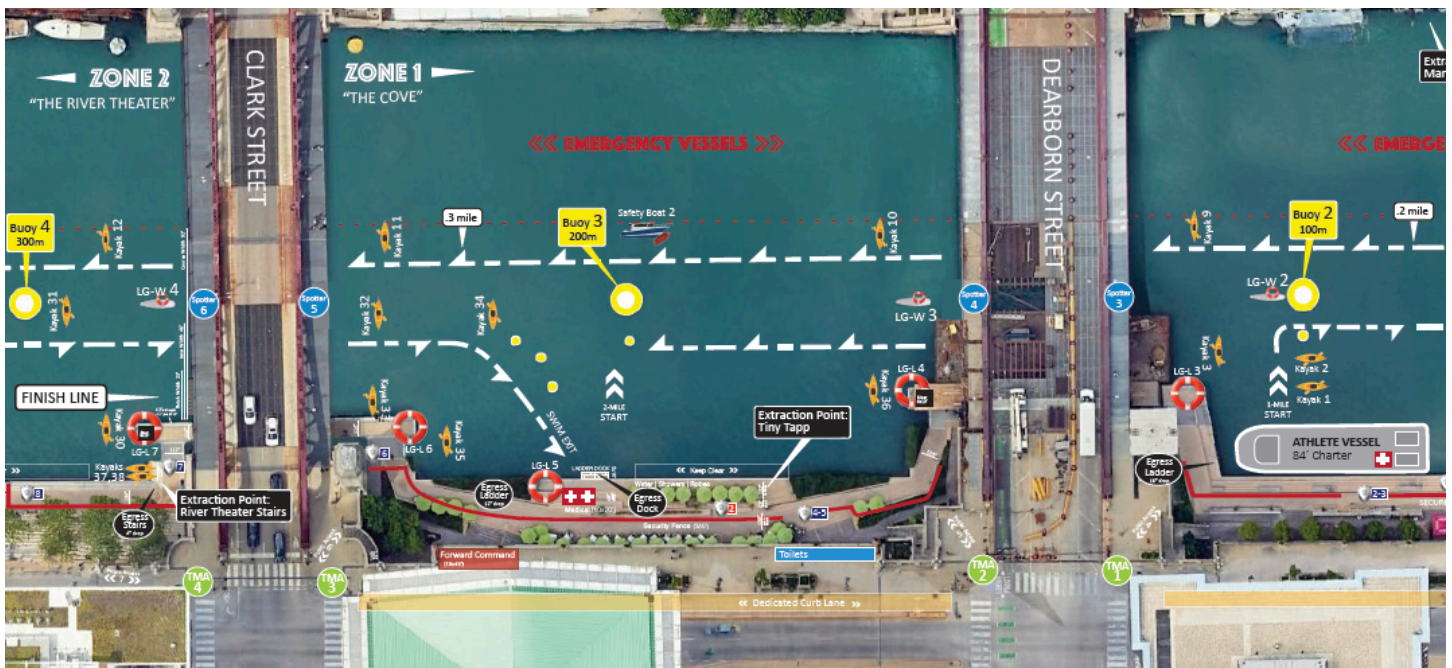
Lifeguards will be stationed along the course, and a row of safety boats will create separation from the swim course (on the river's midline) and the emergency vessel access corridor (north of the river's midline). Land-based spotters will be positioned at elevated positions to monitor both swimmer and support crew activity. A full summary of course assets is included in the Water Safety Resources section below.

## FINISH AREA LOGISTICS

The in-water Finish Line for all swimmers is at the western edge of the Clark Street Bridge (see graphic below). All swimmers will cross the Finish Line, pass under the Clark St Bridge and exit the water at the western edge of the Tiny Tap restaurant using the existing ladder and portable, floating docks.

Athletes will be guided past medical staff who will quickly evaluate each athlete upon exit, then walk through a clean-water shower. Finish hydration, towels and snacks will be provided at the Swim Exit area. Participants will return to the Athlete Vessel to retrieve their personal belongings. Private security will control access points between the two locations.

Spectators are expected to gather at the River Theater, along key portions of the Riverwalk (west of LaSalle Street), and along the upper sidewalks. Spectators will be discouraged from gathering on the drawbridges atop the swim course. Security will restrict public access between the LaSalle Street and State Street Bridges. See page 21 for more details.



## WATER SAFETY RESOURCES

This Safety Plan was created to mitigate water-related incidents for participants, volunteers and staff alike. CRS understands the sensitivity of operating around open water and will convey appropriate levels of precaution throughout the event.

### SAFETY PERSONNEL

The CRS will dedicate 200 event personnel and 50 watercraft to ensure a safe, successful operation. A full listing resources and details is listed below, and a preliminary operational map is included in Exhibit D.

SAFETY RESOURCES			
RESOURCE	# PERSONNEL	# WATERCRAFT	DETAILS
Buoys	--	12	Nine autonomous pontoon buoys will be placed every 100 meters along the 800-meter course, with three additional units used at the start/finish. Their propellers are caged. These are able to be used as flotation stations.
Lifeguards (On Water)	16	10 on SUPs, 6 on Event Safety Boats	Ten water-based lifeguards will be positioned (between buoys) along the swim course midline with easy access to both westbound and eastbound swimmers. Six additional lifeguards will be positioned on event safety boats lining the river's midline. All will be on radio.
Lifeguards (On Shore)	24	--	Land-based lifeguards will be positioned at key areas (approximately every 30 meters) along the entire south Riverwalk. All will be on radio.
Spotters	13	--	Spotters will be positioned high atop the swim course on each bridge (both sides), monitoring swimmer and support crew activity via radio.
Support Kayaks	40	40	Kayaks will be used along the outer perimeter to provide corrective guidance for swimmers veering off-course, and serve as floating platforms for those who need a break (adjust goggles, catch their breath, etc.).
Emergency Extraction *	4	2 Jet Skis	Two extraction teams on jet skis with extractor boards will be dedicated to rapid packaging and transport from the course to awaiting medical personnel. Options exist for public or private sector support. Final counts are relative to public safety approval and availability.
Non-Emergency Extraction Boats	12-18	6 Pontoon Boats (or similar sized)	Relative to agency approval and anchor possibilities, these boats will be positioned outside the swim area and along the west and east course zones. Each includes Captain, Navigator and a Lifeguard. NOTE: Propeller-driven crafts will NOT be allowed to enter the swim area. Each boat will carry an AED.
Swim Coordinator	2	1 Bass or Jon Boat	Includes the Swim Coordinator and Assistant, providing various pre/during/post logistics and general event support.
Event Staff	20	--	Various on-shore event production roles, including Athlete Services, Event Operations, VIP and Sponsor Activation personnel.
Medical Team	17	--	The medical team includes nine professionals from Event Medical Services (3 ALS units, 1 cart team and 1 physician), six volunteers staged across the course, and Paramedics managing the Medical Tent.
Event Volunteers	50		Supporters assisting with a variety of production tasks, including Packet Pick-Up, Gear Check, Information Tent personnel and People Movers.
Other Agency Support*	TBD	TBD	Various support from CPD, CFD, USCG, IDNR, etc. to ensure closure of the waterway and further assist with emergencies and/or extractions.

\* Contingent upon availability and approval from the Chicago Fire Department, US Coast Guard, IDNR and/or other agencies.

## Lifeguards

CRS plans to place 40 lifeguards along the entire swim course. Ten water-based lifeguards will be positioned (between buoys) along the swim course midline with easy access to both westbound and eastbound swimmers. Six additional lifeguards will be positioned on event safety boats lining the river's midline. Twenty-four land-based lifeguards will be positioned along the south Riverwalk.

With a maximum of 250 swimmers in the water at any given moment, the swimmer/lifeguard ratio is expected to be 6.25:1 (the USA Triathlon standard for fresh water swimming is 50:1). Lifeguards will hold a valid certification from a nationally certified agency with CPR training. Each Lifeguard will have an event-issued radio tuned to the designated Lifeguard channel.

## Spotters

The CRS will place 13 official Spotters along the course, specifically high atop the water (at both sides) on each bridge. The Spotters' role is to observe the course for swimmers who may be in distress or drifting off-course, call-out kayaks or watercraft that need to be repositioned, or communicate any other items of concern. All Spotters will be identified as event personnel with credentials and outfitted with an event-issued radio.

## Emergency Extraction Team

A dedicated Event Rescue Team will monitor the swim course in zones on rescue jet skis. Participants requiring extraction from the course due to medical emergencies will be conducted by certified personnel only, including the CFD, USCG, IDNR and/or private, certified experts.

- Participants removed from the course will be considered DNFs, and will have their chip number, time, location, and reason for removal communicated to Event Forward Command via Event two-way radio.
- Participants in need of medical attention will be taken to the closest extraction point (outlined below) and medical dispatch will respond accordingly.
  - Any participant that falls below the surface may be deemed a water rescue emergency.
  - Lifeguards will contact Event Rescue on radio to advise of the last known point and remain in position.
  - CFD will conduct a sub-surface or deep-water rescue if required.
- The Swim Start Finish Coordinator (SSFC) will suspend the start of any remaining waves temporarily, at the command of the RD, until the emergency is mitigated. The SSFC will notify Event Forward Command of the incident.

## Non-Emergency Extraction Team

Six dedicated, volunteer watercraft will be used to serve as a collection point for DNF participants, both positioned outside of the immediate swim area relative to agency approval and anchor possibilities:

- Watercraft will be identified with CRS event markings to confirm their placement on the river.
- Watercraft will not cross-over the river's midline and enter the swim course, without emergency, and will take care to avoid developing wakes when moving on the river.
- Each includes a Captain, Navigator, Lifeguard and an AED.

## Swim Coordinator

The Swim Coordinator has ultimate responsibility to execute the Water Safety Plan, including but not limited to the swim course set up, management of the Spotter Kayakers and Watercraft operators and coordination with timing. The Swim Coordinator (SC) will be assisted by an assistant on a bass or jon boat.

As part of the course set up, the SC is responsible for ensuring the swim course is according to the map, including swim buoys and warning areas, and for coordinating with MWRD to ensure that any weeds or debris is pulled out of the swim path. Additional duties include any other coordination with MWRD and Lifeguards to monitor swim conditions, currents, and water temperature.

## SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Once they begin, swimmers will exit from the water in one of five scenarios:

SWIMMER EXIT OPTIONS	
<b>VOLUNTARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finish Line</li><li>• Choosing to stop (termed "DNF")</li><li>• At direction of Water Safety Personnel</li></ul>	<b>INVOLUNTARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Event emergency</li><li>• Missing swimmer situation</li></ul>

If a swimmer is tired or struggling, kayaks are able to support them for as long as a couple of minutes (this is a common event practice) until the swimmer either (a) continues along the course, or (b) is determined the swimmer needs to be removed from the water. Lifeguard exit instructions are final and precedent to registration and waiver conditions.

### Watercraft Support

Watercraft support will be available for evacuation of swimmers (if necessary). Lifeguards will communicate directly with Forward Command and Event Rescue craft. Official Spotters (on shore) will either notify one of the non-emergency extraction boats for voluntary extraction, or emergency support from Event Rescue jet skis with extractor boards placed in opposite sides of the swim course.

### Extraction Process

In the event of a swimmer extraction, the Swim Course allows for seven possible extraction points divided across three operating Zones (see below), subject to advice and final approval from CFD, CPD and/or Coast Guard officials. Whenever a swimmer is pulled from the course, Forward Command notes swimmer condition, number and the timing company will maintain the Did Not Finish (DNF) report.

POSSIBLE SWIM COURSE EXTRACTION POINTS				
ZONE	SIDE	MILE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
(1) East	South	0.0	Tiny Tapp: 55 W. Wacker Dr.	Between Clark and Dearborn St. Bridges. Stairs required to Wacker Dr.
	South	0.1	City Winery: 11 W. Wacker Dr.	Between Dearborn and State St. Bridges. Stairs required to Wacker Dr.
	North	0.2	Marina City: 300 N. State St.	Readily available docking (will need to determine street-level access).
(2) Center	South	0.95	River Theater: 112 W. Wacker Dr.	Water-level staircase at NE corner of Theater.
	North	0.35	River Roast: 315 N. LaSalle St.	Water Taxi dock on north shore of river. Stairs required to LaSalle St.
(3) West	North	0.65	Wolf Point: 343 W. Wolf Point Plaza	Possible riverside access to sidewalk. East Bank Club could also suffice.
	South	0.7	The Boardwalk: 390 W. Wacker Dr.	West end of swim course. Low water clearance, ADA ramp to Wacker Dr.

If a swimmer is pulled from the course AND requires medical attention, the Event Rescue boat will extract them and bring them to the appropriate extraction point along the river. Three ALS ambulances will be placed along the venue:

- South of the River, at the Start/Finish Area near Tiny Tapp on Wacker Drive.
- South of the River, at the Riverwalk's Boardwalk area at the west end of the course on Wacker Drive.
- North of the River, on LaSalle Street, adjacent to River Roast extraction area.

If a swimmer is pulled from the course and DOES NOT require medical attention, the swimmer may spend some time in the non-emergency pontoon boat and upon race finish be ferried back to the Start or Finish area.

In the event of race being halted there are two scenarios planned requiring exit for participants:

- Emergency situation – Primary points of exit are any of the approved extraction points listed above (with support of public safety or event vessel support), or the series of ladders and exit areas located along the entire south side of the River.
- Non-emergency situation – Primary points of exit are the series of 14 ladders and exit areas located along the entire south side of the River. Swimmers who voluntarily exit will be communicated back to Forward Command for reconciliation.

Swimmers will have ankle-style timing chips (not GPS trackers), so they can be logged as entering and leaving the River. The timing company will run an exception report for chip accountability throughout the event.

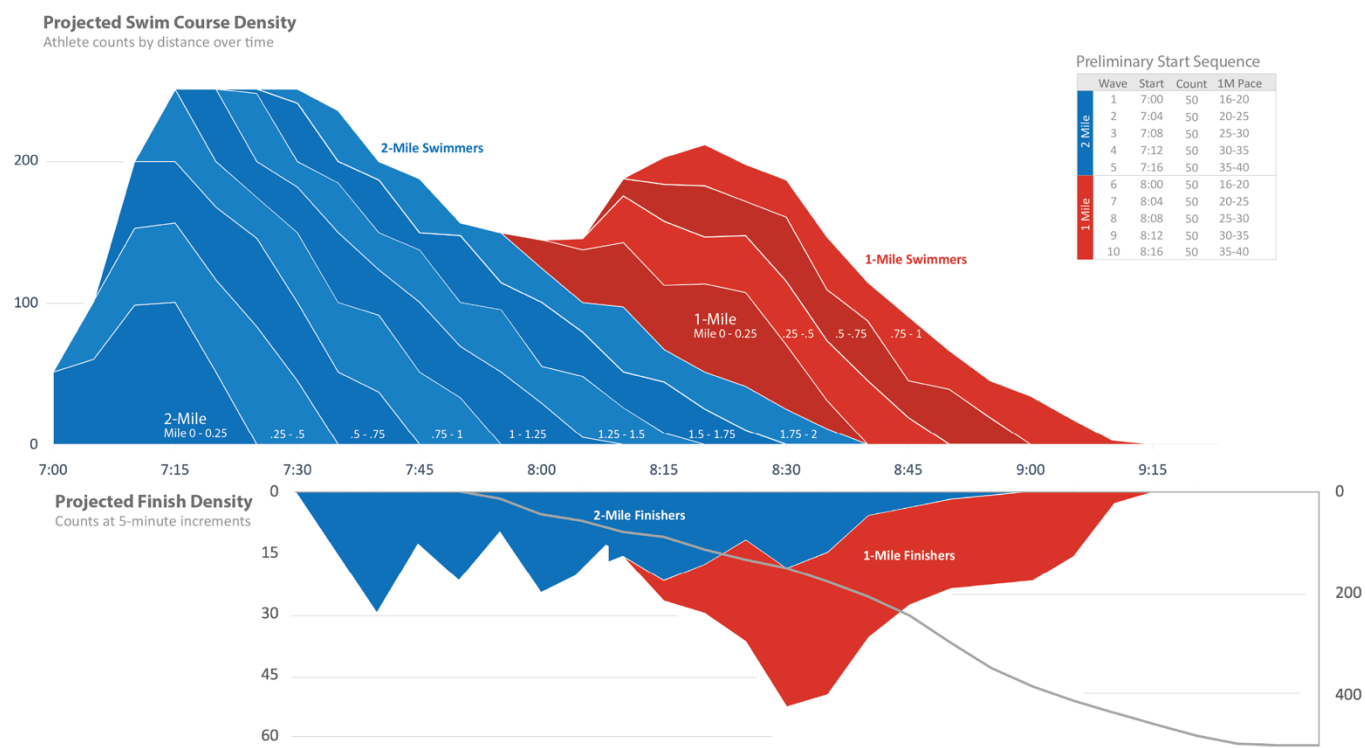
Athlete Flow

The athlete flow is designed as an important safety feature. The 250 long course swimmers will be grouped into “waves” of 50, each starting ~4 minutes apart. The fastest swimmers will launch first at 7:00 AM, with the slower swimmers departing at 7:16 AM. This spacing allows the field to safely spread across the course and reduce potential contact with other swimmers.

The 250 short course swimmers will start in a time-trial format, where two swimmers start side-by-side every ~5 seconds. Like the long course swimmers, the faster short course swimmers begin first at 8:00 AM. The final short course swimmers will enter the water by 8:16 AM. All swimmers will be required to exit the water by 10:00 AM, but should be finished closer to 9:15 AM. Since previous swim experience is mandatory for this event, CRS does not anticipate extremely slow swimmers.

A full timeline projection and athlete flow chart is included below]:

2025 CHICAGO RIVER SWIM: Projected Athlete Flow





## Missing Swimmer Verification Plan

As indicated above, swimmers will exit the water in one of seven possible extraction locations, or via any ladder along the Riverwalk. This section deals with the possibility in which they are determined unaccounted:

- If the count of participants out of the water or a chip/timing report shows a person not out of the water, a missing participant notification will be communicated to Forward Command and event staff immediately.
- Staff will work with Timing to generate a report of all the participants that have crossed the timing line. The Event Director will also check the DNF report for swimmers that exited the water.
- If these steps confirm an unaccounted participant and that participant has not checked out as DNF, or exited noting verbally they have lost this timing chip, the decision will remain with Forward Command and Event Rescue to initiate a response.
- In the event of a missing swimmer search, the Event Director will direct the Swim Course Coordinator to vacate the swim course as swiftly and safely as possible. All on-water resources will direct all swimmers to head to the nearest extraction point and exit the water.
- The missing swimmer search should start as soon as possible in the cleared areas. The Swim Course Coordinator will coordinate all available staff to participate in the search.
- One event staff member should immediately gather as much information as possible regarding the missing person, including name, gender, entry number, wetsuit/swimsuit color, etc.
- Begin deep water searches and shallow water searches of the entire swim area and last known area of the missing person.
- Deep Water Search: Only Chicago Fire Department staff will conduct the deep-water searches. A coinciding land search should be conducted in the surrounding areas and event village for the missing person. The search leaders will reconvene by radio to discuss further action. Searching will continue until terminated by the Chicago Fire Department.

## Weather Conditions

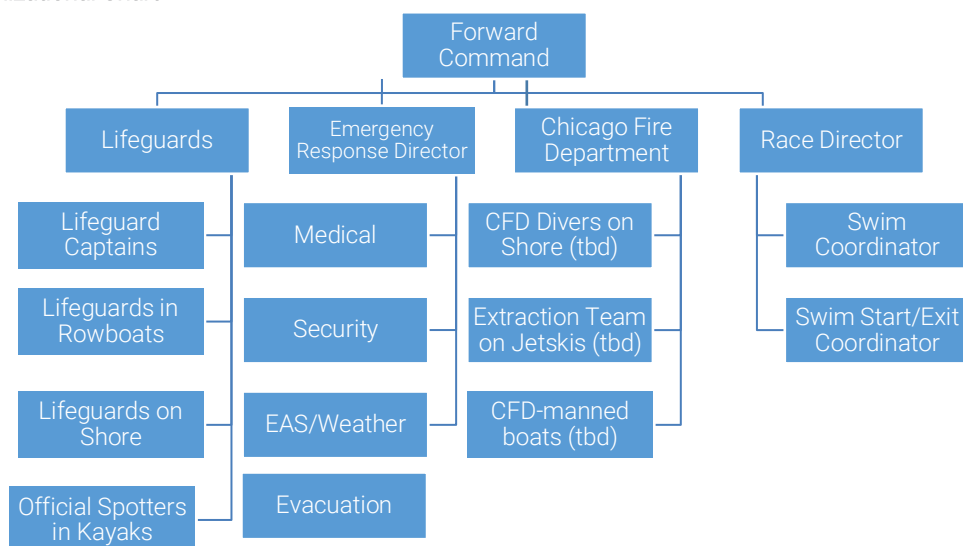
Lightning must be clear from within a 10-mile range for a 30-minute period prior to race start or during the event. High winds that create unfavorable conditions may delay but are not anticipated to stop the event. Heavy rains without CSO's may create murky nonpoint water to be considered by the Event Director.

## Water Temperature Rules

The CRS will reference water temperature guidelines from USA Triathlon and World Triathlon Corporation (IRONMAN):

- 87.8+°F: Cancel event
- 82 – 87.7°F: Wetsuits not allowed
- 78 – 82°F: Wetsuits worn at participants' discretion
- 62 – 78°F: Wetsuits allowed
- 55 - 62°F: Wetsuits required; hoods optional but recommended
- Below 55°F: Cancel event

## Water Safety Organizational Chart



## Water Safety Communications Plan

All event communications are monitored in Forward Command:

- Lifeguard Captains, Lifeguards and Official Spotters will be issued event radios and will communicate medical incidents and DNF extractions to Forward Command.
- Public Safety (CFD, CPD, etc.) will use their own radio system and will also have event radios to communicate, extractions and responses to Forward Command.
- Watercraft will be issued event radios and will communicate with swim coordinator and Forward Command.
- Swim Coordinator and Event Director will communicate with Official Spotter kayakers and water craft support to respond to distressed swimmers and swimmers that need to be extracted.

## Swimmer Safety Gear

Swimmers must use, or will be provided with, the following to minimize any water-related issues:

- Colored silicone swim caps (provided by event, designating wave and protection)
- Goggles (required protection)
- Inflatable, numbered swim buoys (provided by event)
- Earplugs (optional protection)
- Wetsuits (optional, encouraged)
- Mouthwash and fresh water shower post event (provided by event)
- Health waivers and warnings: Do not proceed if any health condition is not appropriate for open water swimming, direct submersion/contact, in urban water as well as typical physical wellness matters.

## Key Roles & Responsibilities

A key event personnel phone list will be distributed internally, with copies provided to government agencies prior to race commencement. These numbers are not for public distribution in this application.

### Event Organizers: Doug McConnell & Clif Wilson

Located at Start and Finish areas, primarily focused on the public facing non-emergency aspects of the event.

### Event Director: Scott Hutmacher

Located at Start, Finish and Forward Command, he will be the main liaison to the race personnel and activity. Complete authority to go/no-go race operations in conjunction with the assigned team.

### Emergency Response Director: Bryant Krizik

Located in Forward Command and will be the main liaison with the medical response team, monitoring the event's radio channels for all emergency related issues and will be the authority as to how to respond or prevent a vulnerable situation. In the event of an emergency, leads all decision making and actions, will advise race organizers, City officials, Event Director to determine the best course of action.

### Swim Coordinator (SC) on Water

The SC has ultimate responsibility to execute the Water Safety Plan, including but not limited to the swim course set up, management of the Spotter Kayakers and Watercraft operators and coordination with timing. As part of the course set up, the SC is responsible for ensuring the swim course is according to the map, including swim buoys and warning areas, and for coordinating with MWRD to ensure that weeds and debris are pulled out of the swim path. Additional duties include any other coordination with MWRD and Lifeguards to monitor swim conditions, currents, and water temperature.

During the swim:

- The SC will have a designated Swim Extraction Captain to complete the extraction process, details below. There will be an Extraction Coordinator assigned to process, report and record all DNFs accordingly.
- The Extraction Coordinator will immediately communicate the DNF to Forward Command by reporting the number of the athlete via two-way radio.
- Timing will record all DNFs on paper and will pull their timing chip.
- DNF timing chips are collected and returned to the Timer after the completion of the Swim.
- If a swimmer is pulled from the course AND requires medical attention, the boat will bring them to the most convenient extraction point where an ambulance and/or medical staff will provide medical assistance.
- If swimmers are pulled from the course and DO NOT require medical attention, they may remain in the pontoon boat for a period of time.
- Provisions will be made for DNF swimmers to collect their gear.

### Swim Start and Finish Coordinator (SSFC) on Land

The SSFC begins the race at Tiny Tapp, converts the area to the Swim Exit area, then moves to City Winery for the second start.

The SSFC leads a group of volunteers and volunteer captains to set up the start corral and help corral athletes into proper waves. The SSFC supervises the start captain to ensure each wave starts on time, checks to make sure each athlete has a timing chip, is body marked on both shoulders, is wearing the appropriate swim buoy, and wearing the proper swim cap color.

Additional duties include guiding the athletes to the water and reporting any athletes that drop out to Forward Command by two-way radio prior to start. In the event an athlete drops out before the swim start, the SSFC will collect the timing chip, record the swimmer number on a list and report the number to Forward Command immediately. All chips will be turned into the Timer after the Swim course has closed. This swimmer returns to the start/finish line on a boat following up all swimmers to collect their belongings.

The SSFC also has a volunteer captain who sets up the special needs table, ensuring athletes retrieve their glasses, inhalers, etc. We expect several who do these types of events including sight and hearing impaired that swim with 'angel' guides. Additional duties include coordinating all set up at the finishing area, including that the medical tent is set-up and fully staffed prior to the start of the race.

#### Lifeguard Captains (LGC)

The LGCs coordinate and manage the operational functions of the Lifeguard posts, including the kayaks, paddle boards and pontoon boats during normal operations and active surface rescue. The LGC will work directly with the SCC as support for the water safety team and will have responsibility for recording the bib number, time, location and reason for any competitor being extracted from the swim course. The LGCs will be located on bridges for added visibility facing north, on the north side of street, or east side of street as the river turns east.

The LGC, all or one main Captain, will be on Event two-way radio frequency to manage communication between Lifeguards and the Forward Command.

# COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication plan details the day of internal and external event messaging. Areas addressed in the communication plan are classified as Internal (including Event Forward Command, Event Alert System, Unified Command, Radio Plan and Crisis Communication) and External (including Community Outreach, Group Texting, and Social Media).

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

### Event Forward Command

The event's Forward Command purpose and function is to:

- Maintain situational awareness of course and event conditions
- Monitor event operations
- Facilitate all event contingency planning
- Dispatch all event communications
- Dispatch Medical communications
- Monitor weather and facilitate EAS status
- In the event of an emergency, key staff identified as Unified Command will report Event Forward Command, respectively.
- Forward Command will be located in a white 10x20 tent at Swim Exit.

### Locations and Hours of Operation

- Roll Call: Sunday, September 21: 6:00 AM
- Race 'in water' Period: Sunday, September 21: 7:00 AM start – 10:00 AM finish
- Open: Sunday, September 21: 5:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Clean-Up Sunday, September 21: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

### Forward Command Resources

- Secured Wi-Fi for internet access.
- Three TV monitors to display GPS tracking for EMS resources, logistics scrolling and any additional information available.
- 8 - 6' tables
- 20 chairs
- 10x20 tent
- Course maps, timelines, swim wave start

### Event Forward Command Personnel

- Event Organizers: Doug McConnell
- Event Director: Scott Hutmacher
- Emergency Response Director: Bryant Krizik
- Meteorologist: US Weather Service Online resource
- EMS Supervisor: Event Medical Solutions (Karl)
- EMS Dispatch: Mary Picot
- Communication Dispatch Team: TBD
- Security Director: Blue Star Security
- DCASE Representative: TBD
- OEMC Representative: TBD
- Chicago Fire Dept Rep: TBD
- Chicago Police Dept Rep: TBD

### Event Alert System

The Chicago River Swim will integrate the Event Alert System (EAS), a color-coded method of quickly communicating to participants the potential for adverse weather conditions or other factors that can affect the Event. A set of EAS Flags will be set up at Start Line, Finish Festival, key vessels, Forward Command, Finish Line and at the Finish Medical Tent. The flag color that corresponds with the current EAS level will be flown until a status change is activated. The different colored EAS flags will be stored near the flag systems and personnel will need to locate and change the flag to the appropriate color.

## Event Alert System (EAS) Activation

- In the event that the EAS level changes, a situation report will be created within Event Forward Command to ensure all agencies are in step with one another.
- Forward Command will initiate the change in status level and record on the Event Log.
- Communications Dispatch will communicate the EAS level change via an all-channel announcement over the two-way radio frequency.
- The communication will also be repeated on all stages and PA systems.
- Personnel responsible for EAS flag changes will report back to Forward Command once the change has been made.
- In the event the conditions warrant a Red or Black EAS status change, Unified Command will be activated before making the final decision and communications are released.

ALERT LEVEL	EVENT CONDITIONS	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
<b>EXTREME</b>	EVENT CANCELED/EXTREME AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS	PARTICIPATION STOPPED FOLLOW EVENT OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS
<b>HIGH</b>	POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CONDITIONS	SLOW DOWN / OBSERVE COURSE CHANGES / FOLLOW EVENT OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION / CONSIDER STOPPING
<b>MODERATE</b>	LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS	SLOW DOWN / BE PREPARED FOR WORSENING CONDITIONS
<b>LOW</b>	GOOD CONDITIONS	ENJOY THE EVENT BE ALERT

## Unified Command

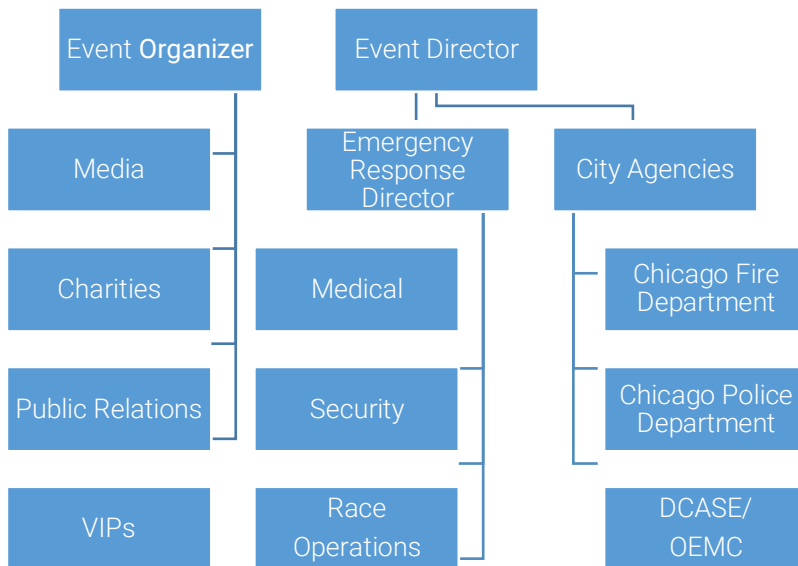
Unified Command (UC) will be activated when an emergency or incident occurs that warrants response and action impacting the entire event.

Those within the Unified Command Organizational Chart will be responsible for distributing specific information to their designated groups. The UC staff must not share information with anyone outside the UC unless instructed to do so.

A written message will be developed and distributed by UC staff to assure a unified and agreed upon communication is made to all involved. It is imperative that all communication relating to the crisis happens quickly, professionally and calmly.

Cell phones may be used, a laminated key personnel phone card list is used.

## Unified Command Organization Chart



## Radio Protocol

### Overview

- Two-way radios, provided by the Event, will be used as the main point of communication for all Event staff, and select vendors/city officials.
- Radios can be checked out at the Forward Command during operating hours.
- Forward command is located as marked.
- Radio channel assignments can be found on the credential contact card, also available at the Forward Command.



#### Participant Training - Tips & Standards to be applied

- Stay on your assigned radio channel (Channel assignments are located on your credential).
- Press the talk button and wait 2 seconds before you speak.
- Always Identify who you want to talk with and then yourself. Hey, you, this is me. (i.e. "John with Swim to Dave K).
- When you hear your radio beep during use, you need a new battery. Extra batteries will be located at Forward Command.
- Keep transmissions very short and concise.
- Your equipment should never leave your person – except at the Port-o-lets.
- When plugging a headset into a radio, confirm the radio is turned off otherwise you will be live.
- Absolutely no foul language at any time!
- Always keep a fully charged cell phone as back up and in case of emergencies.
- Be aware of the critical parts of Event day where radio channels must be clear in order to execute vital checkpoints, i.e. just before the start of the race, during a first finisher approaching the Finish line, etc.
- If you use a radio during set up day(s), either charge your battery overnight or retrieve a replacement battery at the Forward Command before roll call.

#### IMPORTANT:

- Roll call and radio checks will be conducted by Forward Command using the call times listed in the staff guide.
- If you are assigned a radio, you will be called to check in at your specific call time.
- Dispatchers will confirm they heard you and move on.

CRS RADIO ASSIGNMENTS		
CHANNEL	NAME	DETAILS
1	Command/Medical	Use for all medical reporting and high-level assistance.
2	Course & Post Race	Use for all standard event operations.
3	Chat Channel	Use if transmission is longer than two exchanges or not relevant to the masses
4	Lifeguard to Lifeguard	Includes Spotters

#### Crisis Communication Process

##### Overview

For all emergency incidents, contact the Forward Command for direction and support. All incidents resulting from course conditions, weather conditions, as well as theft or property-related incidents must be reported to Forward Command. When required, incident reports should be completed by the Event Director or Emergency Manager.

##### General Procedures

If a crisis occurs, secure the accident area and immediately contact the Forward Command. Briefly and calmly explain the situation so that the appropriate emergency personnel can respond. The Emergency Manager will assemble all necessary staff and relevant event coordinators for a meeting, explaining that there is an emergency.

No one is to speak to anyone outside of race staff; the Event Director will serve as the official spokesperson with an appointed public relations staff as contact point. Do not discuss details, speculate on events or otherwise project consequences until the Event Director is present and has been briefed.

##### Serious Injury or Death of a Participant

In the event of a serious injury or death, medical personnel or the police will notify the family. All race participants are required to have an emergency contact on file and available to proper authorities. In any emergency, use tact and caution in your actions and statements to participants, spectators and others. Where litigation may follow, be extremely cautious about jumping to conclusions or speculation.

## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

### Response To A Crisis

#### Event Director's Responsibilities

During the event, the Event Director serves as the:

- Overall staff leader responsible for coordinating all activities, during and after a crisis
- Primary contact for local authorities, including the police and city municipalities
- Manage appointed PR to Media spokesperson
- Crisis contact, responsible for making sure crisis management protocol is followed

#### Working with the Media

The Event Director will have access to a variety of media contacts and will be the only member to engage in media outreach.

#### Role of the Media

Media representatives will be eager to get a story out to local contacts. Reporters may try to contact family members and facilitate a back-and-forth between different personalities. Do not respond to family members' concern through the press and always engage the Event Director if approached by a member of the media. Do not feel pressured to make comments in response to other people's comments. Public Relations will manage all communications.

#### Preparation and Response to the Media

Assemble facts correctly and clearly before putting anything into writing. Consult with the Event Director and Emergency Manager prior to speaking to the media. Post-event consult with legal counsel before releasing statements to the media. Draft a media statement, including only facts without speculation or explanation of the event. Be proactive by responding quickly, honestly and openly. Always protect confidentiality and privacy. Do not release names of individuals involved in any emergency situation.

#### Guidelines for Participating in an Interview

Be available and prepared to answer questions from the media. You do not have to have your picture taken. Take your time before answering questions. Do not feel rushed. Be friendly, no matter what the topic of conversation. Do not get angry or defensive. You can set the pace of the conversation by your tone and manner of speaking; be sure to set a standard of respect. At the same time, be sure you are in control of the conversation. Be brief; do not speculate or discuss your own personal opinions. Do not say "no comment" or "off the record." Only speak on the record and assume that everything you say will appear in print. Prepare a response before the interview to use if the reporter asks a question you can't or don't want to answer. For example, "I can't speak to that right now out of concern for our athlete's privacy." If asked a question you don't know the answer to, don't say "I don't know." Instead, use "I will have to get back to you on that." As the reporter to read quotes back to you, so you are sure the reporter has taken accurate notes on the situation.

#### Group Texting

A group texting application will be used to communicate mission critical information to key staff. The group text will be assembled and managed in Forward Command. Texts will be sent periodically to reinforce communications and as a redundancy to radio systems.

#### Social Media

Information pertaining to the event, potential changes to the race plan will be communicated to all participants, staff, and vendors via social media and email. The following social media channels are in use for this event. Event Website - Facebook; Twitter; Instagram

# SECURITY

Event security protocols include pre-event security consulting, as well as on-site management to maintain a safe and secure environment for athletes, staff, spectators, volunteers, general public, and the community.

Key Security Responsibilities:

- Guard unattended equipment
- Monitor activity overnight
- Protect exclusive areas and access points (primarily between the LaSalle Street and State Street Bridges)
- Maintain general security of all athletes, staff, and the public alike

## SECURITY PLAN OUTLINE

Pre-Event

Security guards will contact the point person assigned to that post prior to the event if they have any questions. They will be positioned between the Clark and State Street Bridges during load-in and build-out on Friday and Saturday to ensure the public is removed from any safety hazards that may exist during this phase of the event. These guards will act to ensure asset protection and security of race items.

Event Day

The security team will be composed of a series of off-duty officers, security staff, supervisors, and a manager from the contractors’ team. The officers will be roaming the event start and finish sites, monitoring the entire Riverwalk for safety concerns, controlling crowds, securing perimeters and other various post duties in conjunction with the Chicago Police Department. Preliminary posts are referenced in the table.

Additionally, Traffic Management Aids (TMAs) will be requested to support pedestrian traffic at Clark St, Dearborn, and LaSalle St intersections during the event.

Post Event

While the event is loading out, the event security guards will be placed on the perimeter of the event to restrict public access to the venue as deconstruction takes place for safety and security.

PRELIMINARY SECURITY SCHEDULE

Friday, Sep 19		
(2) Guards	12 PM - 6 PM	Load-In
(2) Officers	6 PM - 6 AM	Overnight Watch
Saturday, Sep 20		
(2) Guards	6 AM – 6 PM	Load-In, Setup
(2) Officers	6 PM – 6 AM	Overnight Watch
Sunday, Sep 21		
(8) Guards	5 AM – 11 AM	Access Check Points
(6) Officers	5 AM – 11 AM	Zoned Riverwalk Security
(1) Super	5 AM – 10 AM	Forward Command
(6) TMAs	5 AM – 10 AM	Pedestrian Support
(2) Guards	11 AM – 3 PM	Teardown

## CONTROLLED ACCESS POINTS

Spectators are expected to gather along the Chicago River during the event. While many will observe from upper Wacker Drive, controlled access to the Riverwalk will be offered to various groups (see chart for details). Checkpoints will be posted at the various Riverwalk entrance stairways and at fenced-off access points along the river where security personnel will verify credentials.

Guards will be identified by credentials and uniforms. There will be signage at checkpoints to remind security, participants, spectators and the general public of the type of access that will be granted.

PROPOSED RIVERWALK ACCESS RESTRICTIONS		
LEVEL	RESTRICTED TO	ACCESS CONTROL DETAILS
1	Staff/Vols/Vendors	“All Access” credential required, allowed to access the venue in entirety
2	VIPs/Dignitaries	“VIP” credential required at dedicated access points, restricted to secured Start/Finish area and Stage
3	Registered Athletes	Participant wristband required at dedicated access points, restricted to secured Start/Finish area
4	Athlete Guests	Guest wristband required (2 wristbands/athlete) at dedicated, screened access point, restricted to cordoned-off areas near Start/Finish (barricades will maintain separation from Athletes)
5	General Public	The River Theater, areas west of the LaSalle St. Bridge and east of State St. Bridge will be allowed for the general public. Each will require security screening at access points and roped-off restrictions from the water’s edge (creating a barrier for staff, lifeguards, etc.)

# MEDICAL PLAN

## Primary Contacts

- Event Director: Scott Hutmacher
- Emergency Response Director (ERD): Chief Bryant Krizik
- Medical Coordinator (MC): TBD
- On-site Medical Doctor: TBD (via Event Medical Services)

## Nearest Hospitals

- Northwestern Memorial 251 E. Erie Street (Level I Trauma Center)
- Mercy Hospital 2525 S. Michigan Ave.

## EMS Resource Provider

- Contact: Event Medical Services, Karl Kuester

## MEDICAL COMMUNICATION PLAN

CRS will host direct, two-way communication with all onsite units by way of private company radios. Medical dispatch will continually liaison with Emergency Manager to manage the resource allocation throughout the race. Medical reports that come through the medical hotline or by way of event radios will be communicated directly and immediately with medical dispatch.

1. Two-way Event Radio
  - Use Channel #1 (Medical)
  - Dispatched out of Event Forward Command
  - Record incidents in reporting document
  - Liaison with medical dispatch to deploy resources
2. Medical/Emergency Hotline:
  - Used by anyone, posted internally on staff materials, credentials and externally, and noted in the Athlete Guide
  - Dispatched out of Event Forward Command by way of telephone
  - Liaison with medical dispatch to deploy resources
  - Log all reports in online Master Medical Doc
3. Medical Dispatch
  - Managed through Event Medical Services
  - Dispatched out of Event Forward Command
  - Will manage all incoming reports and allocate resources accordingly
  - Direct communication with all on-course/site CRS/BLS units to manage movement of resources
4. Main Medical Tent (10x10)
  - Treatment managed by Medical Doctor
  - Triage and Situational Awareness managed by Medical Coordinator
  - Event two-way radio used for direct communication with Event Forward Command
  - Record all patients into Master Medical Doc
  - Report all hospital transport or escalated situations to Event Forward Command immediately
  - Complete Event Incident Reports for all treated patients

## Medical Emergency Response Instructions

1. A staff member or volunteer shall stay with the party at all times until care is transferred to trained, medical personnel.
2. Either use the event two-way radio or medical/emergency hotline to report the medical situation:
  - Report that you have a "medical emergency"
  - Give a call back number in case you get disconnected
  - Give your specific location (Use landmarks, buoy numbers, specifics on Site)
  - Give the bib number of the person injured
  - Given the nature of the injury and any other details about the status of the person involved (do not give names over the radio)
3. Medical Dispatch will instruct you what to do.
4. Keep the patient out of harm's way. Redirect spectators and swimmers around the patient or if possible, move the patient off to the side.
5. Communicate patient information only to medical personnel and event management. Do not violate patient privacy laws by relaying information to anyone outside of the above personnel, hence why you don't name someone on the two-way radio.

6. If the injured party refuses medical attention or decides they want to continue the race, you must communicate that to Medical Dispatch immediately and still record the incident on the proper incident report form.
7. In cases of non-emergency medical situations needing transport, radio or call for a non-medical pick up. Give the number for DNF reporting and the location for pick up. Priority will be based on the availability and accessibility of the person. Stay with the party until you have resolved the situation fully.

### **Documentation of Medical Incident**

Documentation of all incidents onto the Event Incident Report form is mandatory and should happen immediately following the conclusion of the incident. Incident Report forms are located at the Finish Line Medical Tent.

### **Injury of Staff Member or Volunteer**

An injury or illness of any staff member or volunteer during the event set up, breakdown and the event itself, requires notification to Forward Command.

## **MEDICAL RESOURCE PLAN**

The CRS will provide the following medical personnel:

#### **The Medical Coordinator**

- Will ensure the tent and supplies are accounted for and set up properly prior to race start.
- Will pick up radios and assign them to designated personnel within the tent.
- Will radio Forward Command when the tent is race ready.
- Will take check in all medical volunteers, assign them a post and manage their transport to the posts.
- Will assign someone to log all treated patients into the online Master Medical Doc and work directly with the Triage Manager.
- Will instruct the Main Medical Tent volunteers of their roles and manage them throughout the event.

#### **The Medical Doctor**

- Will manage the treatment protocol within the tent and ensure all operations are executed properly.
- Will liaison with medical dispatch in the case of a hospital transport or other escalated situations.

#### **Medical Volunteers**

- Will treat all patients to their certified qualifications and as instructed to by the Medical Doctor or Medical Coordinator.

### Main Medical Tent (10x20)

The main medical tent will be setup at the Swim Start/Exit area in front of Tiny Tapp:

- The medical tent will be occupied by a minimum of (1) Medical Coordinator, (1) Doctor and (4) licensed medical staff or volunteers.
- The Medical Coordinator will ensure all medical personnel are checked in, receive their uniform and instructions before heading to their posts.
- If required, the Medical Coordinator will arrange for transportation of the medical personnel to their posts before the event.
- The Medical Coordinator will confirm all medical personnel arrive at their posts, the medical tent is properly set up and they are race ready – then will report this to Forward Command.
- Medical personnel will log all treatment cases on the Event Incident Report form located in the medical binder.
- Medical personnel will call the medical/emergency hotline if there is an emergency or escalated incident.

### Medical/Emergency Hotline Operator

- Will be positioned within Forward Command.
- Will answer all incoming calls and log medical incidents in the online Master Medical Doc.
- Will record any non-medical reports.

Dispatches and operators should ask the following information in this order:

- Is this a medical emergency? (if yes, flag ERD immediately)
- What is your call back number?
- Where are you exactly?
- What is the situation?
- What is the bib # of the participant (detailed description if non-participant)?
- Give any instructions or further questions outlined from medical dispatch or ERD



## TOOLS & TRACKING RESOURCES

### GPS Tracking on all Course Motorized Vessels

- The GPS location of medical resources will be tracked within Forward Command.
- Pontoon boats will have GPS units to help identify their location on the river. This will aid in getting definitive medical care when needed.

AEDs will be distributed across the Event Safety Boats roving the course, supported by contracted and certified EMTs in communication with emergency forward and Forward Command for quick response.

### Online Master Medical Document

- Live Google doc set up prior to the event by ERD
- Tablets used within the Main Medical Tent to load live data
- All reports received within Forward Command will be loaded immediately into the doc
- Allows Emergency Manager to maintain consistent and live knowledge of all medical situations throughout the event
- Allows Emergency Manager to proactively notify medical dispatch of potential escalated situations, i.e. need for transports, reallocation of medical resource units, etc.

### Medical/Emergency Hotline

- A hotline is established and published prior to the event.
- The hotline number is used in all pre-race communication with participants and staff, placed on staff/volunteer credentials and in the participant gear bags.
- The hotline is forwarded to Forward Command.
- The hotline will be manned by a Forward Command staffer who will relay all reports immediately to Emergency Manager or medical dispatch directly and record all reports in the online Master Medical Doc.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE

### Medical Emergency Reporting

Radio Channel #1 (Medical Dispatch), OR, Emergency Medical Hotline:

#### Medical Dispatch

The event's main contact for medical service providers (EMS agency) will be located in Event Forward Command. They will have access to their EMS reports via their internal communication. Due to the use of a private EMS provider, we highly recommend you use either a two-way radio or the emergency hotline to Forward Command vs. calling 911 in the case of an emergency. The Chicago Fire Department will also be present in Forward Command; however, it will be a more efficient and timely response to use the event-specific protocol and resources.

### Medical Emergency Response

For both medical emergency or non-emergency situations, complete the following steps:

1. A staff member or volunteer shall stay with the party at all times until care is transferred to medical personnel.
2. Switch to Medical Channel #1 to report the medical situation
  - Report that you have a "medical emergency" or a "medical non-emergency situation"
  - Give your specific location
  - Give the bib number of the person injured if possible.
  - Given the nature of the injury and any other details about the status of the person involved (do not give names over the radio)
3. Medical Dispatch will instruct you what to do
4. You may be asked to call dispatch on your cell phone to continue the report
5. Keep the patient out of harm's way. Redirect spectators using kayaks, etc. around the patient or if possible, move the patient off to the side of the swim course.
6. Communicate patient information only to medical personnel and event management. Do not violate patient privacy laws by relaying information to anyone outside of the above personnel, hence why you don't name someone on the radio.
7. The Event Director must be notified of all serious injuries requiring transport to a hospital immediately (Forward Command will complete these next steps).
  - The Event Director will contact the participant's emergency contact as soon as possible and give them the hospital info.
  - Forward Command will communicate with the gear check coordinator and retrieve all gear.
8. If the injured party refuses medical attention or decides they want to continue the race, you must communicate that to Medical Dispatch immediately and still record the incident on the proper incident report form.
9. In cases of non-emergency medical situations where the swimmer is removing themselves from the event, their chip must be taken by staff and called in to Forward Command as a DNF. Stay with the party until you have resolved the situation fully.

### **Death or Serious Life-threatening Injury of Participant**

In the event of a participant's death or serious life-threatening injury, the supervising medical staff will need to be notified and take control of the situation as soon as possible. The area will need to be closed off and controlled allowing medical personnel to work while ensuring privacy. Police should be notified to aid as available. The Event Director will be notified as soon as possible to enact the emergency communications and direct media inquiries. The Event Director will consult on statements to be made to the public. Medical Personnel will consult/advise on the situation.

If the event can be redirected around, kayaks will "quarantine" and control the area to limit swimmer forward intrusion on the medical and emergency care personnel.

Should the event not have on site medical personnel, at any time or location, 911 will be called immediately and care given by trained persons only.

### **Hospital Transport Protocol**

- In the event of a transport to a hospital, Event Forward Command must be notified immediately, no matter what has happened up to that point or where it takes place. Use the event two-way radios or Medical/Emergency Hotline to notify EFC.
- The Event Director will immediately decide to locate and secure all Gear Check, or other personal items left on Site.
- Forward Command will confirm swim cap #, emergency contact information and hospital in which they were transported.
- Emergency Manager will call the emergency contact (ICE) within an hour of the transport to notify them of the transport and leave a return phone number for the Event Director.
  - It is best if arrangements are made at that time to pick up the personal belongings.
- In the event the emergency contact is not reached, leave a message with the same information as above, and request a call back if items are to be claimed.
- If the situation is critical, the Emergency Response Director (ERD) must make the call.
- If the situation is fatal, the ERD must make the call.
  - The ERD must notify Risk Management of the incident.
  - The ERD should consult immediately with Forward Command to ensure media, social media and other external outlets are protected and handled properly.

# WEATHER RELATED INCIDENTS

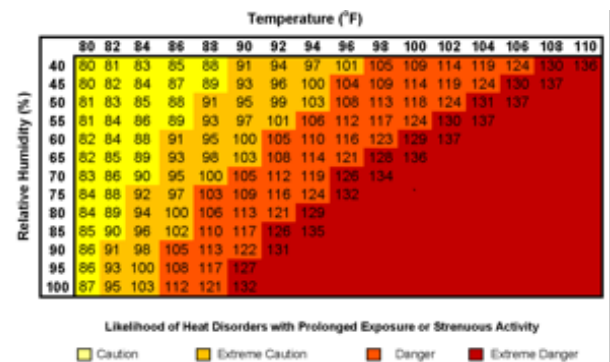
## Monitoring

- Event management will ensure an all hazards weather plan is in place one week prior to Event week.
- Forward Command will monitor the weather, to include but not limited to air temp, humidity, and wind speed.
- These are important factors and will be forecasted and tracked before and during the race.
- Based on the forecast, certain precautions will be implemented to help mitigate issues in regard to temperature and weather.
- If severe weather is forecast for the day of the event, Event management will notify key personnel.
- Event Director will be responsible for the notification of the status of any threatening weather conditions and will notify the Event Director of the status of severe weather conditions that may threaten the safety of the event and its participants, staff, volunteers and spectators.
- If severe weather is approaching prior to the event start, there will be designated shelters (see Evac Grid).
- Participants, volunteers and spectators will be urged to take cover in these areas or inside the nearest public building.
- If threatening weather happens before the race and while participants are in the Start corral, the SSFC or their captain will direct participants towards the designated shelters on the Riverwalk and radio to Forward Command of the situation for further instructions. Once the weather event has passed, participants will be directed back to the start line.
- In the event of less than favorable water conditions or weather, event organizers will attempt to postpone the event to a rain-out date of Sunday, October 6 (two weeks later).

## Heat and Cold Conditions

When weather conditions present a risk of heat or thermal illness, the below guidelines for event management, event modification, or event cancellation. EAS levels will change accordingly.

1. For heat, increase quantities of hydration both pre-race and post-race.
2. For cold, keep participants on a transport boat or under a covered shelter pre-race and provide post-race thermal blankets.
3. Evaluate Medical supplies and adjust accordingly
4. Alter athlete communication to provide fair warning of the impending weather conditions



## Lightning and Severe Weather

Severe weather that threatens the event will need to be monitored by a national weather agency or hired weather professional associated with command. Severe weather is classified as: severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, high winds, etc. If lightning is within 0-8 miles of the event, it must be delayed or canceled. Lightning must be clear from the 10-mile range for a 60-minute period before the event is continued.

## Tornado Warning

Should a tornado warning be issued for anywhere in the event area, (sirens sounding or known alert issued for direct path of event area) communication will be sent to all event personnel directing them to: Clear the swimmers to the nearest identified exit point before or behind them according to Event Director instructions and seek immediate shelter. A broadcast message will be announced over the available loud speaker systems for spectators to seek immediate shelter.

# EVACUATION

Evacuations of CRS will reside with the Event Director and Emergency Manager in conjunction with city and local agencies. There are numerous hazards that would prompt a decision to evacuate an area or the entire race course. Unified Command will activate in the event of an evacuation (see Event Communications).

In the event of the swim being halted, there are two scenarios planned requiring exit for participants:

- Emergency situation – Primary points of exit are any of the approved extraction points listed above (with support of public safety or event vessel support), or the series of ladders and exit areas located along the entire south side of the River.
- Non-emergency situation – Primary points of exit are the series of ladders and exit areas located along the entire south side of the River. Swimmers who voluntarily exit will be communicated back to Forward Command for reconciliation.

In the event of a mass stop, participants shall be exited at the nearest exit point and/or collected by any event Safety Boat.

## Water Exit Points

Event personnel have identified 14 possible egress areas for the swim course, all located along the south Riverwalk. Half are permanent fixtures. The remaining will be installed in accordance with public safety and city approval. Locations include (from east to west):

Location	Exit Details
1. West side of State Street bridge	Existing ladder
2. Extraction area in front of City Winery	Temporary dock w/ ladder
3. East side of Dearborn Street bridge	Existing ladder
4. Start/Finish area in front of Tiny Tapp	Temporary dock w/ ladder
5. East side of Clark Street Bridge	Existing ladder
6. West side of Clark Street Bridge	Existing stairs into water
7. East side of LaSalle Street Bridge	Temporary dock w/ ladder
8. West side of LaSalle Street Bridge	Temporary dock w/ ladder adjacent to existing floating docks
9. East side of Wells Street Bridge	Existing ladder
10. West side of Wells Street Bridge	Temporary dock w/ ladder
11. East side of Orleans/Franklin Bridge	Temporary dock w/ ladder
12. West side of Orleans/Franklin Bridge	Existing ladder
13. Middle of the "Boardwalk" section	Existing ladder
14. Western turnaround/Extraction Point	Temporary dock w/ ladder

In the event of an emergency water evacuation, event personnel will be dedicated and responsible for managing each specific exit point.

## Basic Steps for Event Staff

All staff and volunteer Captains must know where their designated evacuation points are before race day. This will be part of the pre-event training program and also illustrated on laminated cards each kayaker, lifeguard and safety person shall be issued prior to the race.

Step 1: Pay close attention to radio chatter and have your cell phone handy (Be alert and listen for prompts)

Step 2: Follow instructions given by Forward Command (Do not follow instructions from anyone other than Forward Command)

Step 3: Do exactly as instructed and only when instructed (Do not act on your own instincts, although it may be difficult to be patient). If you see or experience anything that may affect the instructions you were given, report this to Forward Command immediately. If you lose contact with Forward Command, the designated leader in your area should make the best decision possible to ensure the safest evacuation.

Step 4: Report exactly as instructed and only when instructed (keep the radio clear of unnecessary chatter during an evacuation)

## Land-Based Evacuation Points

In the event of a full venue (land and water-based) evacuation, all participants, staff, volunteers and spectators will be pushed up to Wacker Drive and guided to take cover in the commercial and residential buildings located along Wacker Drive.

# STOP AUTHORITY

The Stop Event Authority will be the Event Director leadership team responsible for calling for the modification or cancellation of an event based on conditions that present themselves. Those conditions may pose a safety, health, or public standing dilemma for CRS and the event entrants.

The Stop Event Authority Team will advise the Event Director and consist of all of the following:

- Emergency Response Director
- Medical Director
- City Agencies

The Medical Director and/or Emergency Response Director will provide consultation and insight to leaders as needed.

- When should the Stop Event Authority Team meet? The team should be pulled together for weather related impact, major medical/death, potential negative PR with impact to the event/company, situations that will affect the event and/or CRS's public standing.
- The Stop Event Authority Team will meet in person at a designated site location or via conference call to include all applicable parties.
- The Stop Event Team will pull in additional resources and personnel as needed to make an informed decision.
- All considerations should be made with the ability to communicate effectively to participants regarding cancelation of the event.

STOP AUTHORITY TIMELINES	
One Week Prior	The Event Leadership will meet one week prior to the event when physical conditions of the event area/course pose a disruption to the event. This is for long lasting problems that will not be resolved prior to the event. (Physical damage to area or unforeseen event that inhibits area use). Water quality updates to these results shall be reviewed. If reasonable, event organizers will attempt to postpone the event to a rain-out date of Sunday, October 6 (two weeks later).
Three Days Prior	Event Leadership will meet to discuss any potential physical limitations or weather threat to the event, Overflow issues. Focusing on extended forecasts of weather conditions that will be present and pose a risk to participants and team members. Water quality updates to these results shall be reviewed.
One Day Prior	Event Leadership will meet one day prior to discuss effects of threatening weather and/or physical conditions, or overflow issues that will pose a risk to participants and event personnel. Focusing on threatening weather planning for heat and severe weather potential. Water quality updates to these results shall be reviewed.
Event Day	Event Leadership will meet as early in the day as possible to discuss any unforeseen conditions that arise overnight or weather conditions/forecast changes that pose a risk to the participants and event personnel. Event delay issues can be considered at this point. Water quality updates to these results shall be reviewed. All resources should be pooled to mitigate the risk of the event without cancellation.

## Delay of Event

Situations may occur which would warrant a delay of race start or delay of additional waves of the race, such as impending weather or course conditions.

Consideration to swimmer dress status (i.e. race ready or still clothed), numbers in the water or awaiting on shore are considered, will be recognized in the decision-making process. It is not our intent to leave swimmers exposed for extended periods of time.

Once the event has begun, it will continue unless dangerous conditions occur, in which case the Event Director will make the decision to suspend. Decisions to delay or suspend will be made by the Event Director in conjunction with Emergency Response Director and City Officials. Unified Command will be activated, and all parties will assist in distributing the pertinent information and instructions. An all channel announcement will be made on two-way radios and the overall PA systems.

Suspension of an ongoing event may result in termination of the event.

## Suspension of Event

During a mandatory all participant evacuation, participants will be directed to the closest shelter point and will remain in place until the "all clear" is given from the Event Director.

Non-emergency situation: Swimmers who have prematurely exited the water will be communicated to Forward Command and asked to return to the Finish Area to turn in timing chip, rinse off, pick up gear and exit the venue.



# EXHIBITS

## EXHIBIT A: WATER QUALITY PLAN

### Water Testing and Quality

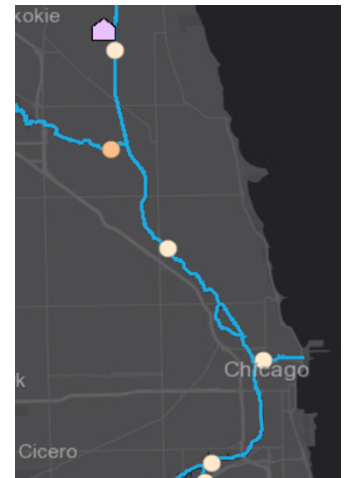
MWRD is the water quality authority for the Chicago River and provides open source public access to published water quality data. The CRS relies on this data to support its race go/no-go decision-making processes.

Water quality is routinely tested by MWRD and will be published to race participants on the event website via a link during which participants will be directed when considering participation. This updated information will also be communicated, including the current advisory status, if any, during the mandatory pre-race safety talk including swimmers, safety staff, in-water personnel. Results will be provided to the Event Director for the Go/No-Go decision making.

Water Quality testing locations are identified by MWRD from 28 locations in the Chicago region, depicted here in relevant upstream event locations. Samples are analyzed by MWRD for several constituents including fecal coliform bacteria, on a monthly basis, Fecal coliform results are obtained within about 24 hours. The quality control process takes approximately 2 days after that, and data is authorized to be reported on an online map available to the public, Event Director, City officials via link: <https://gispub.mwr.org/awqa/>.

Additional MWRD water quality testing will be conducted at the following intervals for the race itself by MWRD, at the start-point, mid-point and finish-point and also reported to Event Director:

- One week prior to event
- Three days prior to event
- Day prior to event



### Chicago River Swim: Water Quality Safety Plan

The Water Quality Plan (WQP) is one of several safety components to the Chicago River Swim (CRS) event Safety Plan, the other being physical safety.

Thanks to our local government, many advances in water quality, shoreline protection, on-line sanitizing systems, control of combined outfall overflows (CSO's) have led to dramatically improved water quality, fish populations, recreational uses, and of course the public's recognition of its beauty and desire for uses spanning shoreline building, recreational boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, river tours and Riverwalk activities with all users in direct contact with the water. Our hope is to present a controllable event which Chicago can be proud of and highlight the governments' strong works to improve this resource economically, environmentally, and politically.

The WQP proposes the next logical step, already publicly conceived by others.

The schedule of the event shall be at a time to minimize or eliminate business interruption.

The plan proposes a decision-making tree, range of safety and warning parameters, and means for a clear Go/No-Go decision for race organizers.

The plan presumes the event is not without personal risk – from a variety of sources. To mitigate these risks participants are transparently informed prior to registration, on the event website of typical river conditions, with pre-race signup, and day of event information maintained on the race website as well as pre-swim safety briefings to all participants. Release waivers typical for such events shall include appropriate statements of potential impact to human health. It will be clear participants are fully responsible for participation.

These details are consistent with the reasonable matrix of government policy, regulations, and US Swimming open water event requirements as guidance.

## Water Quality Timeline

### Current Preparations for Event Water Quality Assessment

Reference is made to the recent MWRD water quality report for the Chicago River. MWRD collects water quality data for the Chicago River and provides public access to the data and collaboration with MWRD on this plan. Inform the MWRD and other authorities of the scheduled race date as soon as possible, and reminder four (4) weeks prior to the race event.

Establish protocol for sharing the data from MWRD to Race event leadership (format, parameters, frequency) and the independent analysis used to establish trends and risk thresholds for public use and race conduct decision-making.

### Sampling protocols

- The use of IDEXX 18-hour sample kit as suggested by MWRD will sample e. coli and fecal coliform simultaneously, with quantification results in 18 hours (Note: assuming the use of IDEXX Colilert 18-hour kit, referenced in the MWRD note)
- For the public race-event website, we will post results of the e. coli sampling, but the advisory committee should have access to the public fecal coliform quantification as well, to inform decision making of race organizers with appropriate lead time considerations and tracking of geometric means beginning two weeks out from race day.
- The IDEXX system provides results as present / absent, which then needs to be converted to a Most Probable Number (MPN) in units of cfu / 100 ml. These details should be discussed with MWRD
- Although faster results may be gained with rapid qPCR testing such as being currently used by the Chicago Park District for beach testing, Race organizers will arrange to perform tests at their independently contracted certified laboratories, based on their significant river expertise and unique knowledge, with their staff and expertise.

Water Quality Criteria to establish safe levels for the event.

- Utilize 2012 EPA Water Quality Recommendations:

EPA Recommendation Levels (estimated Illness rates: 36 / 1000) ^		
Indicator	Geometric Mean* (cfu / 100ml) #	Statistical Threshold Value** (cfu / 100ml) #
e. coli	126	410

^ Stomach upset with or without fever

\* The Geometric Mean is not to be exceeded in a 30-day period (geometric mean of the 21 samples to be taken leading up to the event)

\*\* The Statistical Threshold Value (STV) is not to be exceeded in 10% of the samples in any 30-day period

# MWRD will measure the presence of E. coli via the IDEXX 18-hour test, with a most probable number conversion to cfu / 100ml (Note: Suggested data and procedure received from US EPA Region Water Quality Group)

### Water Quality Advisors

Advisors will include MWRD, CDP, event representatives, CHSC representative, MWRD and IEPA. Each would serve as advisory to the Race Leadership team, not a race Go/No-Go decision-making authority – This allows agencies to voice their opinion without regulatory / liability concerns.

CRS has received permission from MWRD to use its public data, without alteration, as the CRS promotes appropriate water quality data.

Stakeholder dialog to continue via the Chicago Harbor Safety Committee (CHSC) includes relevant agencies, bodies, and users, associated with river business and safety:

- US Coast Guard
- MWRD
- CDOT
- Harbor Master
- Chicago Police Marine Unit
- Chicago Fire Marine Unit
- Chicago Dept of Water
- CHSC membership
- Argonne National Laboratories (ANL)

## Role of Argonne National Laboratories (ANL)

Argonne National Laboratories is under contract with MWRD for specific biological studies of the Chicago River and may or may not operate in that capacity for this event. Argonne has the right and the potential interest to conduct research on this event independent of the MWRD, CRS race officials may invite Argonne to offer human biological testing kits, at their expense and coordination to participants to conduct non-invasive human recreational use biology testing.

CRS commits to allowing Argonne labs to offer free of charge its bio-swab and fecal/urine testing kits to those swimmers so volunteering, they will be self-addressed, postage paid type kits we understand available at race conclusion. Argonne will establish agreements and protocols to test swimmers, necessary privacy releases will be included in test kits and not race organizers, prepare communications of their offering, advertise their offering on event website as a public service message by CRS. Argonne, if participating as envisioned, will identify specific location of their booth on race day, clarify staffing of their booth. We welcome the City of Chicago Department of Environment to provide similar booth and public service messaging.

## Pre-Swim Safety Information

Organizers will inform participants about fluctuating bacteria levels so that they can make decisions about their participation accordingly. A race website will have detailed information and links to property authoritative public sources (EPA, MWRD, etc.) in addition to Race official results. The race registration page will require that participants sign a waiver including confirmation they understand the risks and health care recommendations for such exposures.

Swimmers Safety Gear related to water quality will make use of:

- Colored silicone swim caps (designating wave and protection)
- Goggles (protection)
- Inflatable, numbered swim buoy (buoyancy protection)
- Ear Plugs (protection)
- Wetsuits (encouraged, buoyancy protection)
- Mouthwash and fresh water shower post event (provided)
- Health waivers and warnings: Do not proceed if any health condition is not appropriate for open water swimming, direct submersion/contact, in urban water as well as typical physical wellness matters.

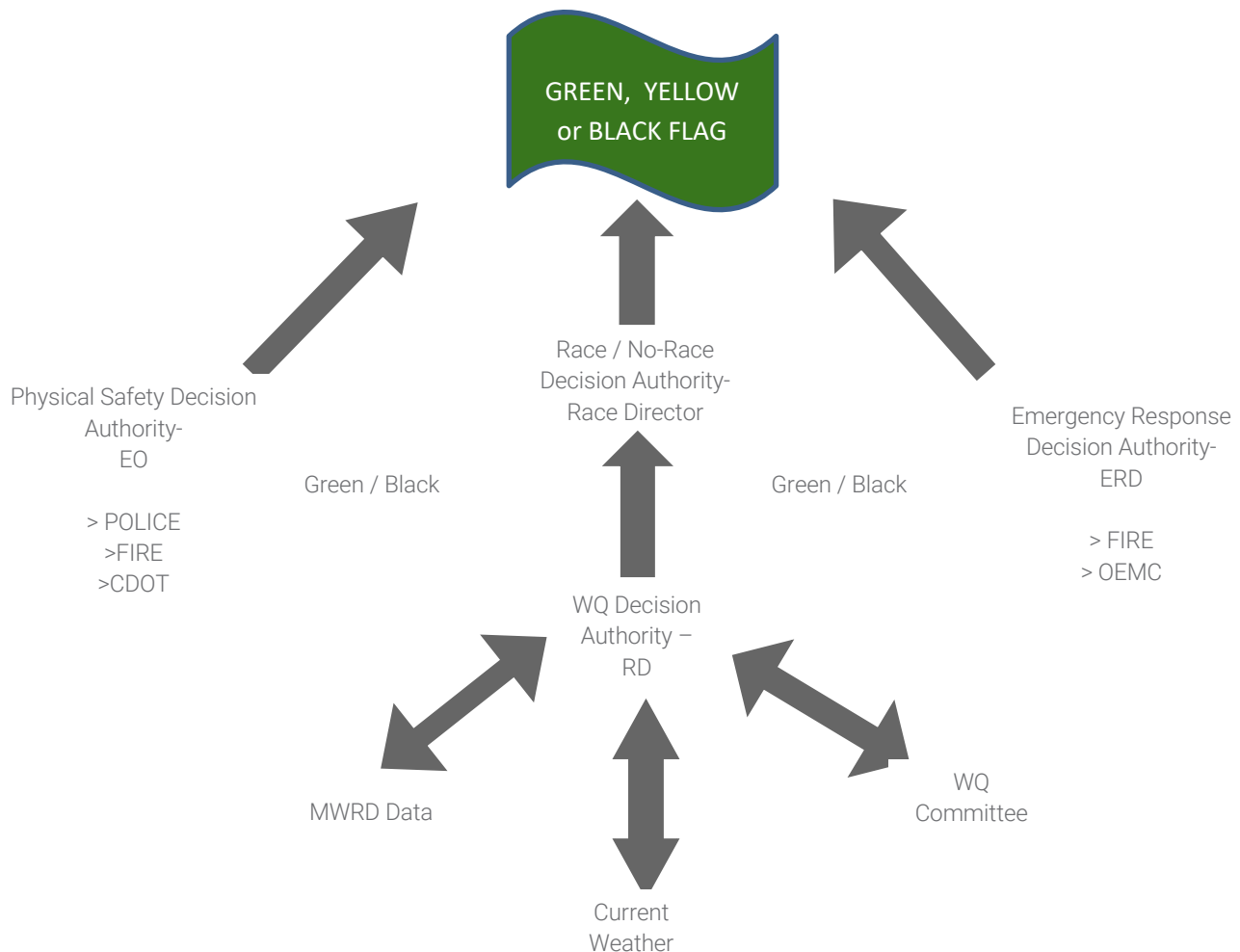
Swimmers and support personnel:

- To exit the river through the finish chute where fresh water showers are supplied from on-site water. This will include all Did Not Finish (DNF) participants who will be brought to the same finish exit or similar with a rinse off station.
- Spotter kayakers and similar support personnel will be advised to follow normal representative/employer procedures for cleaning equipment and personnel.
- Encourage use of provided mouthwash and soap
- Seek immediate on-site medical support for any injury.

Prepare a practice-run of the entire process, consisting of:

- Requesting and receiving the data from MWRD
- Refine the race Go/No-Go determination decision process by addressing these assumptions:
  - Water quality is one decision parameter of many for event day
  - Water quality determination will be passed to a central / higher level decision authority regarding the Go/No-Go decision
  - Who, the authority on final race decision is clearly articulated
  - Establish exactly how the water quality information will be presented to that individual (I am proposing Acceptable / Unacceptable, binary input to the race authority)
  - Establish who communicates and the methods of communications

## Example Water Quality Communication Tree



### Advance Race-Day Preparation – Water Quality

Activities to Occur Starting 14 Days Prior to Event:

1. The "Water Quality Advisory Committee" will review most recent WQ data supplied by MWRD to race officials
2. e. coli and / or Fecal Coliform data will be aggregated to a geometric mean, adding data points as they are received
3. Data will be posted to the race event website with short narrative describing the data
4. The trend in data over time may provide the Water Quality Advisory Committee a better understanding and expectations for decision making on race
5. The Water Quality Advisory Committee will share trends with appropriate event authorities
6. The event website will be kept current with WQ explanation as conditions evolve
7. It is not intended to use the MWRD website for any data generated for the event... We will, however, include links on the race website to the MWRD for further information.
8. Track weather forecasts and water quality trends to anticipate and communicate water quality conditions
9. Begin Water Sampling for the Race
  - o Sample alternate days from 14 through 4 days prior to event (i.e. T- 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4)
  - o Sample every day on days T-3, 2, 1
  - o This sums to 9 sample days – see appendix for sample calendar
10. Exact locations will be established by practicality with the MWRD, but it is suggested to take samples from the following three locations:
  - o West End: Wolf Point
  - o Midpoint of race: Clark Street Bridge
  - o East End: State Street Bridge

- Per MWRD, locations do not need to match the current MWRD Ambient Water Quality locations, but no harm if done so.
- 11. Samples should be taken at a depth of no less than 6 inches, and no deeper than 24 inches from surface to represent a swimmer's typical shoulder depth
- 12. Samples should be drawn as close to race times as possible (between 7:00 and 10:00 AM)
- 13. The Water Quality Advisory Committee will review the MWRD CSO home page (<http://apps.mwrd.org/cso/Display.aspx>) for any CSO activity along or above the race course
  - Water Quality Steering Committee to register for MWRD CSO alerts
  - CSOs along the North Branch and Main Stem

#### Near Race Day Preparations

##### Starting Four Days Prior to Event:

1. Continue monitoring water quality trends and CSO alerts from any additional sources
2. A CSO, upstream or within race length, and within 36 hours prior to event, is an immediate "stop-race" decision
3. The day prior to race will be the last water quality sample and should have results available to the "Water Quality Advisory Committee" in time to integrate into decision making

#### Day of Event

1. Before issuing a WQ determination, the Water Quality Decision Authority will receive and review:
  - a. the final public water quality data point published by MWRD
  - b. the weather report for threats of rain during event
  - c. the MWRD CSO home page
  - d. feedback from Water Quality Advisory Committee
2. The Overall RACE Decision Maker will take the Water Quality and other information (physical safety, emergency response, etc.) into account to make a Race Determination (Flag System)

#### **Figure 1: Risk Plan and Threshold Guidelines**

Will be adopted from and in collaboration with USEPA, IEPA and/or Illinois Department of Public Health, and they will be invited to participate in the Water Quality Advisory Committee. We propose to follow the Decision Matrix (MWRD informational guidance from Charles River event and Illinois Water Quality Standards to race organizers 2018).

Scenario	WQ Condition	Action
1	CSO event in or upstream of race course within 36 hours of race day	Extreme / Black
2	The GM is greater than 126 cfu from the 27-sample set* AND greater than 10% of the 27 samples are > 410 cfu/100ml	Look at the GM for two most recent sample sets (two days, six samples)
	The GM from the prior two days of samples are exceeded	High / Red
	The GM from the prior two days of samples are NOT exceeded (but the 27-day GM and STV are exceeded)	Moderate, Yellow
3	27-sample set, STV exceeded, but GM is not exceeded	Moderate / Yellow
4	27-sample set, GM exceeded, but STV not exceeded	Look at the GM for two most recent samples sets (two days, six samples)
	The GM from the prior two days of samples are exceeded	High / Yellow
	The GM from the prior two days of samples are NOT exceeded (but the 27-day GM are exceeded)	Moderate / Yellow
5	The GM is less than 126 cfu from the 27-sample set* AND Fewer than 10% of the 27 samples are > 410 cfu/100ml	Green
*	There will be 9 sample days, each with 3 sample locations	
Note:	GM = Geometric Mean; STV = Statistical Threshold Value	

NOTE: The WQ standards put forth are for determining the health of the water body, assuming a regular use (we are just a one-time use). It is not our intent to establish a protocol that determines if the Chicago River is safe for primary contact on a regular basis.

Figure 2: Sample Schedule

Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20	Sep 21
T-14	T-13	T-12	T-11	T-10	T-9	T-8	T-7	T-6	T-5	T-4	T-3	T-2	T-1	T-0
Sample #1		Sample #2		Sample #3		Sample #4		Sample #5		Sample #6	Sample #7	Sample #8	Sample #9	Event Day

Figure 3: Example of Event 3-Color Decision Matrix, consistent with safety matrix color scheme, to include water quality limits”

PROPOSED EAS LEVEL	EVENT CONDITIONS	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	WET BULB GLOBE TEMP
EXTREME	EVENT CANCELED/DANGEROUS CONDITIONS	PARTICIPATION STOPPED/FOLLOW EVENT OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS	WBGT > 92
MODERATE	LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS	BE PREPARED FOR WORSENING CONDITIONS	75 – 92
LOW	GOOD CONDITIONS	ENJOY THE EVENT/BE ALERT	40 – 75

## **EXHIBIT B: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**

(see chart for specific equipment and supplies)

### Main Medical Tent

- General equipment, i.e. tents, tables, chairs, coolers, etc. will be delivered and set up the day before by the applicable vendor.
- In the event some supplies arrive race morning, the Medical Coordinator will receive and distribute supplies according to the medical plan.
- The medical supplies are procured by the ERD through Event Medical Services.
- The ERD/Medical Coordinator will ensure the layout is correct and all supplies are fully set up.
- Post-race, the Medical Coordinator will inventory supplies and submit results to ERD/ SEM.

### MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT PROVIDER

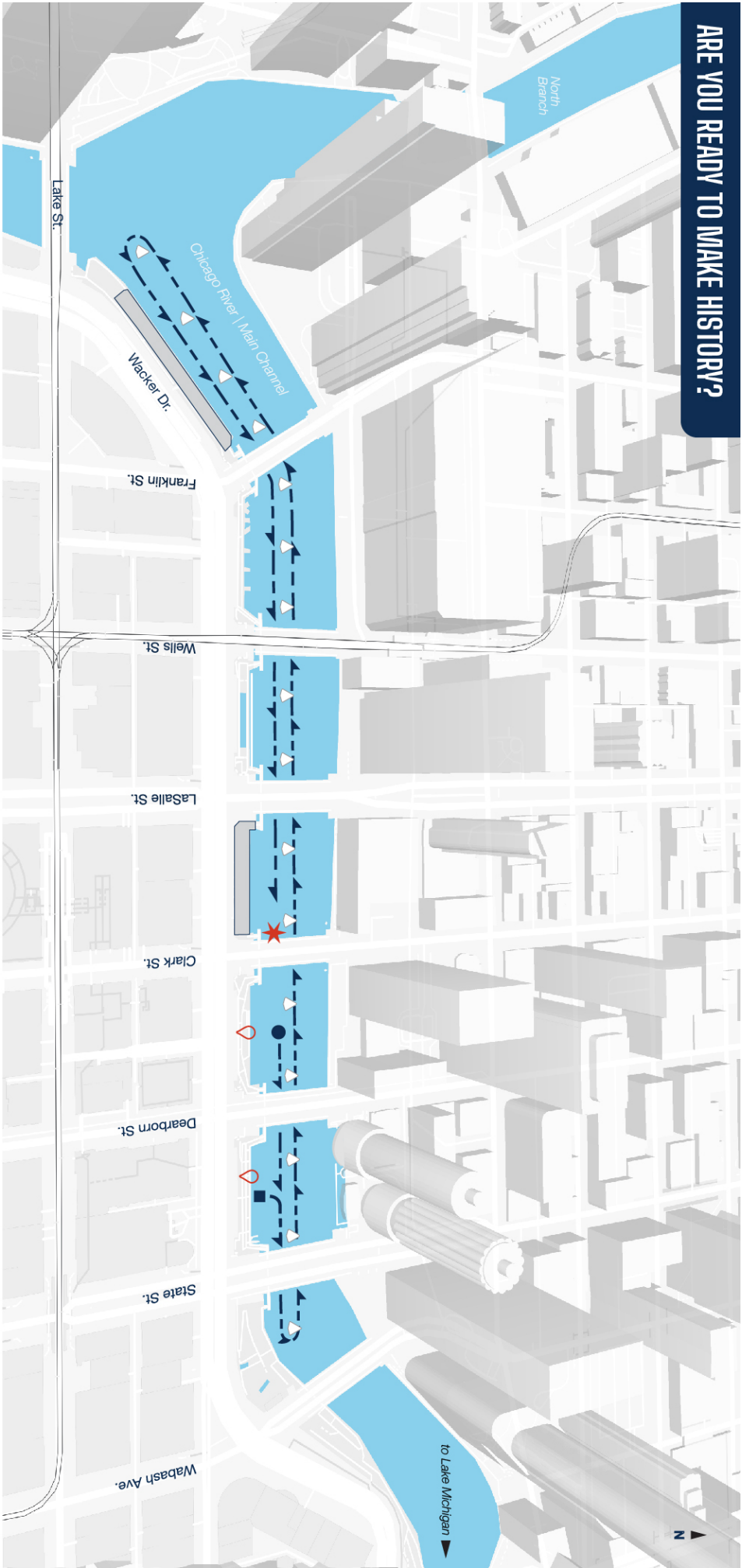
- Contact: Event Medical Services, Karl Kuester

MAIN MEDICAL TENT (FINISH) (Tiny Tapp @ Riverwalk)		
STAFFING		
(1) Medical Doctor		
(1) Medical Coordinator		
(20) Other Medical Personnel		
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	QTY	SOURCE
Tent	1- 10x20 w/ sidewalls	LAS
Interior Lights	Interior lights	LAS
Chairs	20	LAS
Generator	5K generator	PATTEN
8' tables	8	LAS
Medical Flag	1	LTF
EAS Flag System	1	LTF
Power Cords	4 outdoor	CRS
Large Clean Trash Can	4	CRS
Medium Coolers (ice bags)	-	-
Large Coolers (ice bags)	2	LTF
Standard Porto	2	-
Handwashing Stations	1	Service San
Water Supply	Yes	Hydrant on Wacker
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	QTY	SOURCE
AEDs	2	Event Medical
B/P Cuff w/ Stethoscope	2	Event Medical
Cots	5	Event Medical
Rectal Thermometer	1	Event Medical
GENERAL SUPPLIES	QTY	SOURCE
Bottled water	4 cases	
Bottle Electrolytes	1 case	
Hand Sanitizer	4 bottles	
Ice	40 lbs.	
Binder w/ Incident Reports	1 binder	
Paper Towels	10 rolls	
Paper Trash Cans	6	
Paper Trash Liners	20	
Plastic bags (for Ice packs)	200	



Plastic wrap	1 roll	
Snips	2	
Zip ties	1 bag, med	
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	QTY	SOURCE
1" Athletic Tape	14 rolls	
4x4 Gauze	14 boxes	
Ace Wrap	2 rolls	
Bag Valve Mask	1	
Band Aids (assorted)	2 boxes	
Cot Sheets	24	
Disposable Emesis Bags	60	
First Aid Kits	-	
IV Fluid NS	1	
IV Set ups	20	
Mylar Blankets	1 roll	
Non-sterile Gloves (sm, md, lg)	3 boxes	
Saline Eye Rinse	2 bottles	
Salt tabs or packets	1 bag	
Tampons/Pads	1 box ea.	
Tube gauze (various sizes)	3 boxes	
Wound Stop Bandage	2	

EXHIBIT C: OFFICIAL COURSE MAP



ARE YOU READY TO MAKE HISTORY?



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

Celebrate the Chicago River's remarkable environmental turnaround by applying to the first organized swim in nearly a century. This is truly history in the making.

Swim. Volunteer. Donate.

[CHICAGORIVERSWIM.ORG](http://CHICAGORIVERSWIM.ORG)

**LEGEND**

- Swim Start: 2 Mile
- Swim Start: 1 Mile
- Swim Course
- Finish Line
- Signature Viewing Areas
- Key Spectating Partners

FOUNDING PARTNERS

URBAN KAYAKS  
CHICAGO, IL

WINTTRUST  
CHICAGO'S BANK

INFINITI

A Long Swim

LAKESIDE INN

Northwestern Medicine  
Feinberg School of Medicine

## EXHIBIT D: RIVERWALK SONAR SCAN

As a novel event, public safety officials have expressed concern over possible rebar, cyclone fencing or other submerged obstructions along the Riverwalk walls that might impair and/or impale swimmers or rescue personnel.

In coordination with local authorities, CRS initiated its own, underwater scan of the Riverwalk on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. The scan consisted of two separate components: *side-scan sonar* that uses sound waves to detect and create imagery along the river's south wall, and a *Panoptix® sonar* system, allowing a user to see all around the boat – primarily the river bottom.

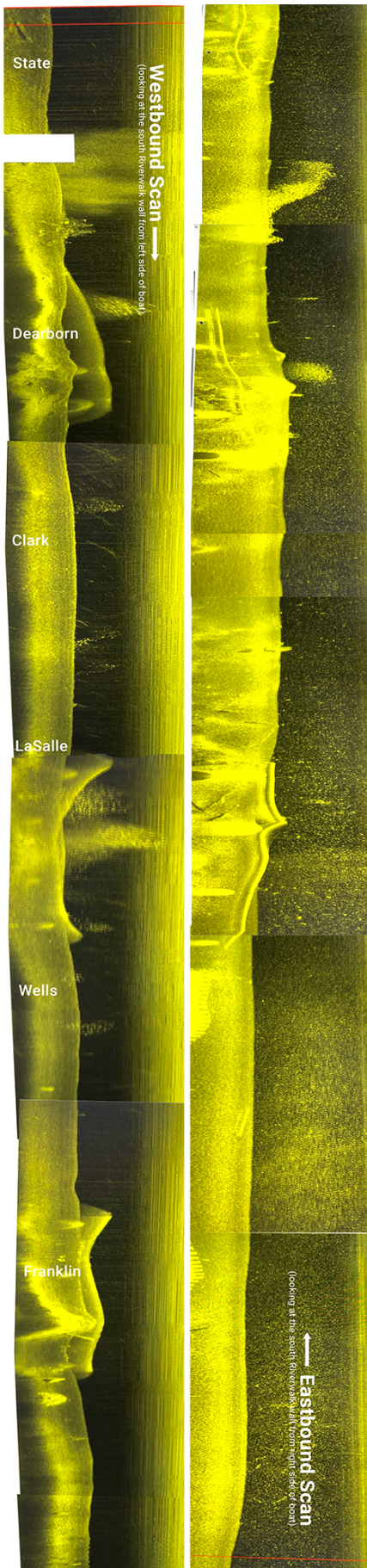
The trip was conducted at near-idle speed (with a trolling motor) and made two separate passes along the proposed swim course: from the Boardwalk (the west end of the course, just northeast of the Lake Street Bridge) to the State Street Bridge (the east end of the course).

Results confirmed there are no obvious obstructions and/or known impairments beneath the surface that would impact normal swimming operations. The river's south wall averages 17-19' of depth, with the river bottom a few feet deeper as you move toward the midline. Findings were shared with the Chicago Fire Department and several public service personnel. Additionally, the CRS team was able to view actual video footage of CFD Marine Unit dives along the same corridor.

While some structures and minor debris were visible by sonar (Riverwalk pylons, fallen bridge tarps, a shopping cart, buckets, etc), and the river depth does vary by a few feet at various points, there were no obvious obstructions that would impede swimmers or their potential rescue.

The graphics below show a continuous side-scan map from both passes (eastbound and westbound), which are overlaid and denoted with the approximately location of each of the six bridges in this area.

Perhaps the most impressive finding during the trip was numerous clusters of fish along the Riverwalk (see the large schools near the State and Dearborn Street Bridges).



## **EXHIBIT E: PRELIMINARY OPERATIONS MAP**

The following maps identify all water assets, including kayaks, lifeguards, medical support, spotters, safety boats, and buoys:

FULL OPERATIONS  
MAP ON SEPARATE PAGE

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