

**Boulder County
Land Use Department
Publications**

Agricultural Pond Safety

Land Use Department
Courthouse Annex Building
2045 13th Street
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Boulder, CO 80302

**Building Safety & Inspection
Services Team:**

EZBP & License Applications,
Reports & Letters
ezbp@bouldercounty.org
303-441-3926

Plan Review & Building Code Questions
building_official@bouldercounty.org
720-564-2640

www.bouldercounty.org/lu

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays 8 to 10 a.m.

Building Permits can be applied for
and issued until 4 p.m.

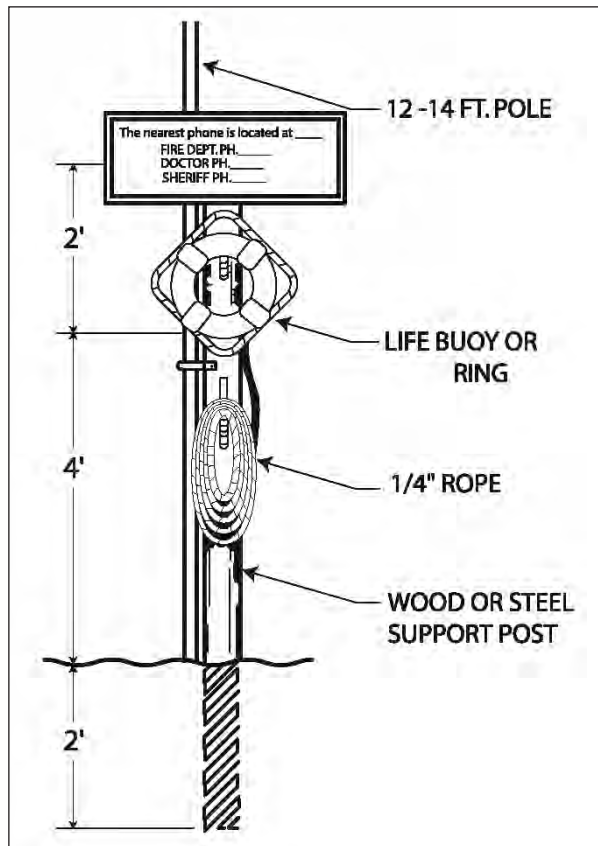
Agricultural Pond Safety

Although ponds on farms and ranches serve a variety of functions, such ponds can also be a source of danger and liability. Victims of all ages, most typically small children, have drowned in farm ponds. It is the farm operator's responsibility to see that their farm pond is as safe as possible. Accidents can be prevented and lives saved by safe pond design and construction.

Safety Recommendations and Guidelines

As a pond owner, you should take the following actions to minimize the dangers and liability associated with each pond on your farm or ranch:

- Eliminate or reduce physical hazards in and around the pond, which may include sloping banks and steep pond edges or dropoffs.
- Provide a means of egress from the pond, which may include a walkable space, ladder or rope.
- Post No Trespassing and/or Keep Out signs around the pond, and restrict pond use to invited guests only.
- If possible, install a secure fence with a locked gate around the pond.
- Never allow anyone to swim alone. Individuals who supervise swimmers should be trained in water rescue procedures and CPR. Promote proper swimming instruction for all children.
- Install a stable yellow rescue post in close proximity to the pond's edge. Outfit the rescue post with the following:
 - A nylon rope that is as long as the width of the pond. Secure one end of the rope to a wooden block, and the other end to a buoy. Hang the rope and buoy on the rescue post.
 - Mount a thin, lightweight 12- to 14-ft. pole (aluminum or PVC) on the rescue post. This pole can be used as a rescue pole.
 - Secure a sign at the rescue post that displays pond rules and emergency contact information.



Liability

Following the Safety Recommendations and Guidelines can reduce your risk of an incident, but despite taking appropriate precautions, you may still face liability should a drowning or other incident occur in your pond. Contact your insurance agent to discuss liability insurance coverage related to your pond.

Grading Permit

For grading, excavation, or placement of fill in excess of 50 cubic yards, a grading permit is required. A grading permit is required for construction of irrigation ponds more than 24" deep. See Boulder County brochure *B17 Grading Permit Requirements* for more information.

For more information concerning agricultural pond design and construction, contact Building Safety and Inspection Services at 720-564-2640 or building_official@bouldercounty.org.

