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Baptismal Pools and Ceremonial Tanks

Baptismal pools and ceremonial tanks are containers that hold water for holy celebrations such as baptisms. While these celebrations have historically taken place in natural bodies of water such as rivers and lakes, religious organizations have brought them onto their property by utilizing baptismal pools and ceremonial tanks. This article discusses the risks associated with these containers and how to minimize them before, during and after use.

Risks

While holy ceremonies involving baptismal pools and ceremonial tanks can be incredibly memorable and meaningful, they can also be dangerous if proper precautions aren't taken. The following are dangers religious organizations face while using these containers:

- **Slips, trips and falls**—Water can splash out of the tank, making surfaces slippery.
- **Drowning**—Unsupervised children can fall into the tank and drown.
- **Contaminated water**—Water left in the tank for long periods can breed mold and bacteria, creating a dangerous environment for anyone who enters the tank.
- **Water damage**—Indoor tank pipes may leak or burst under floors or behind walls.
- **Burns or fires**—If the water is too hot, it could burn whoever enters the tank. Fires can also happen if an electric heating device is left unattended.
- **Electrocution**—Leaving an electric heating device near the water could lead to deadly electrocution.

Minimizing Risks

The utilization of baptismal pools and ceremonial tanks is essential for celebrations in many religious organizations, and with the proper procedures in place, ceremonies can be performed safely. Take the following actions:

- Before the ceremony:
 - Always perform a risk assessment to ensure:
 - The tank has an overflow drain.
 - There are handrails for entering and exiting the tank.
 - There are nonslip tread or slip-resistant surfaces on any surrounding steps.
 - The temperature is safe.
 - The tank fills appropriately and does not overflow.
 - There is a supervisor present to prevent anyone from falling in.
 - The area is closed off when not in use so no one can access it unattended.
- During the ceremony:
 - Keep electrical equipment away from the tank.
 - Have towels ready for participants to dry off with.
 - Have towels prepared to mop up wet floors immediately after participants exit the tank.
 - Place slip-resistant mats around the tank to prevent slips and falls.
 - Help participants out of the water to further prevent slips and falls.
- After the ceremony:
 - Drain the tank.
 - Turn off the water heating device.
 - Close off access to the area to prevent unsupervised children from playing in the tank.

- Clean and sanitize the tank.
- Check faucets for leakage.

Having consistent procedures in place can ensure that baptismal pools and ceremonial tanks are used safely.

Conclusion

Water is an integral part of many holy ceremonies, and with proper planning, religious organizations can reduce the risks associated with it. For more information, contact us today.