San Luis Obispo County

Environmental Health Services

2156 Sierra Way, ♦ San Luis Obispo, ♦ CA 93406 ♦ (805) 781-5544♦
♦ www.slopublichealth.org/ehs♦

Public Swimming/Spa Safety Related to Power Outages

With potential electricity shortages facing San Luis Obispo County, the County Environmental Health Services Agency offers the following guidelines for swimming pool safety in the event of power outages:

Daylight Hours of Operation:

1. Close pool in an orderly manner within 15 to 30 minutes of blackout.
2. Turn recirculation systems off.
3. Turn any additional pool related electrical equipment off.
4. Leave a light or small appliance (radio) turned on so you can quickly tell when power has been restored.
5. When power returns the following should be done:
   - Turn recirculation system on in stages if more than one pump is involved in the system.
   - Test water chemistry to insure water quality standard is met.
   - Reset all timer clocks for lighting and recirculation systems.
   - Ensure the spa emergency shut-off switches are working properly.
6. Once you are satisfied that all pool equipment is operating properly and the water quality is satisfactory then the pool may be reopened.

Nighttime Hours of Operation:

1. Some effort should be made prior to a power outage to provide some form of emergency lighting around the swimming/spa pool. Auxiliary battery powered lighting or flashlight.
2. Close pool immediately, all bathers must be directed out of and away from the water.
3. Check bottom of pool with flashlight to insure all bathers are out of the water.
4. Check restrooms for anyone who may have fallen or become injured in the dark.
5. Follow Daylight hour's guidelines steps 2 - 6.

California Code of Regulations (Section 65525) and California Health and Safety Code (Sections 116040 and 116043) require public pools be recirculated and maintained in a sanitary, healthful and safe manner during hours of operation.

For further information regarding power outages and swimming pool safety, call (805) 781-5544 and ask to speak to an Environmental Health Specialist.