

Santa Clara Valley IPSSA Newsletter



**Next General Membership Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018**

santaclaraipssa@gmail.com / scvipssa.org

**Meeting @ Leisure Supply
3520 Thomas Rd, Suite A
Santa Clara, 95054**

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MONTHLY MESSAGE

This month's meeting Drew from Scuba Pool Repair will be our speaker. Drew always has a ton of stories and great slides. Don't miss it and the great dinner too, Drew is doing.

Look forward to seeing you at the meeting on June 21st this coming Thursday.

Its June and It looks like every one went from busy to OMG busy. Reminder to be extra safe and wear sunblock.

We would like to thank Tom Allen for all his help on the board. Wishing him good luck in his new endeavor.

We are looking for a person to work on content for our Newsletter, possibly a student that worked on their school news letter. Please let aboard member know.

Remember we are paying \$100.00 to any member that recruits a new member.

We hope to see every one at LEISURE for our General meeting Thursday night at 6:PM



**Protect Your Eyes
and
Your Skin**

Exciting New Insurance Coverage Now in Effect

IPSSA members participating in the Endorsed Insurance Program have long enjoyed the best group insurance coverage available in the industry and that coverage just got better with the newly added **Route Income Disaster Loss Coverage**.

As of April 1, 2018, members are now covered for income loss because their customers' property was damaged by a flood, earthquake, wildfire, tornado or hurricane. Swimming pool service techs can't buy this coverage anywhere else and it is exclusive to IPSSA members. The new coverage was conceived after the catastrophic hurricanes in Florida, Flooding in Houston and wildfires in California. Coverage limits are \$25,000 per regular member for up to one-year of income loss and it is provided at no additional cost to members.

Other Coverages Continue

Members continue to have all the other coverages that make the IPSSA Group Insurance Program so special. These include:

\$1 million coverage for chemical injuries and property damage;
Coverage for hazardous material spills from trucks and on the jobsite;

\$5,000 coverage for medical bills due to accidental injury on the jobsite (regular members only);

Coverage for water-borne diseases like E.coli, Legionnaire's, Staph and Cryptosporidium;

\$50,000 life insurance to age 70 (\$20,000 from 70 – 80);
Broadened property damage coverage (aka: faulty workmanship coverage) covering start-ups, and damage to the item your working on, e.g. tile;

Coverage to re-key customer's locks if keys are lost.

No Rate Increase

Premiums remain unchanged for the third year.

Members with questions should call Arrow Insurance Service/HUB International at (800) 833-3433 with any questions.

MEETING AT LEISURE SUPPLY, THIS MONTH

What Causes Calcium To Increase

By Kim Skimmer

Aggressive pool water can etch a plaster surface and thereby increase the calcium level of the pool water. (Of course, adding Cal hypo, and evaporation and re-filling with hard tap water does so too).

Yet some pools can also have an abnormal and rapid increase in the calcium level even though the LSI is balanced. Also, some plaster finishes become deteriorated and/or discolored in a short time, even though the water conditions are balanced. There is a connection between those two issues, and it has nothing to do with aggressive water. The Cal Poly/NPRIC/NPC plaster studies showed a similar outcome.

As is now known, two Ph.D. chemists* have reviewed the first two Cal Poly/NPIRC reports and determined that the published conclusions were incorrect and did not prove that aggressive water was the primary cause of deterioration or discoloration of pool plaster. In fact, the data actually shows that the plaster surface of some test pools either deteriorated, discolored, or spotted within two to four months... in balanced water, not in aggressive water as has been claimed by NPC leaders.

So why or how did the degradation or discoloration happen in those test pools? Unfortunately, the NPC didn't release the videos showing the plastering application of those test pools, so the actual causes can't be verified. But what is known is the reported data showed that the water was in balance, and in fact, on the positive side of the LSI.

The reported data also showed that the calcium levels of the test pools increased significantly in balanced water. Some pools raised by 50 ppm and some by 150 ppm during the first two months after plastering. Several test pools were reported to have severe deterioration, spotting, and discoloration which was visually seen at the four-month inspection. Neither the researchers nor the NPC ever explained those results to the industry.

The cement/concrete industry has long determined that a high water/cement ratio leads to universally weak cement products that deteriorate quickly and can do so uniformly. The term "dusting" is used by the cement industry to describe a weak cement (laitance) surface that deteriorates.

However, inconsistent mixing of different batches and additives, and excessive water troweling and/or late hard troweling can cause **irregular and non-uniform** (spots,



streaks, blotchy) deterioration and discoloration of cement flatwork applications, such as pool plaster.

Those conditions can allow balanced pool water to enter those compromised spots and dissolve away the **soluble** cement compound calcium hydroxide from below the plaster surface. That leads to severe porosity and the plaster turning "whitish" in those areas. When that happens, the calcium (and alkalinity) content of the pool water can increase significantly. It doesn't require aggressive water to dissolve soluble calcium hydroxide and increase the calcium level of the pool water.

We have taken plaster samples from damaged pools and had them petrographically (forensically) analyzed by professional cement labs. Their analysis showed that the white discolored areas were very porous, with excessive micro-cracking below the surface, and were caused by improper water troweling application. The soluble calcium hydroxide (that is interspersed throughout the cement matrix) was removed from those affected spots... by balanced water. That increases the porosity. There was no evidence of aggressive water damage to the plaster surface, and the calcium carbonate material was left unaffected.

Aggressive pool water will dissolve calcium carbonate (balanced water won't) and causes **uniform etching** across a quality mixed and applied plaster finish, not in spots, streaks, or blotchy patterns.

California Enacts Sweeping New Water Laws

Last week, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a pair of bills that will shape the way water is used and conserved in California for years, if not decades to come. These two bills, AB 1668 (Friedman, D-Glendale) and SB 606 (Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys) give new powers to the State Water Resources Control Board to create and enforce water conservation targets in California, as well as shaping how local water boards will enact those targets. It is important to note that there are no initial effects on the pool and spa industry, as the per capita water quotas suggested in the bill apply to indoor water only.

However, it will be critical for the industry to be involved in what will be an extensive regulatory process to develop standards regarding the use of outdoor water. Therefore it is important to understand how these new rules will govern the actions of local water districts moving forward, and what it will mean for the future.

The most relevant of the pair of bills for the swimming pool and spa industry is AB 1668, as it covers the research and adoption of new water usage standards in California. The most important aspects of the bill are as follows:

- Establishing a series of decreasing per capita water quotas for indoor water use, beginning with 55 gallons per capita with the enrollment of the law, 52.5 gallons per capita beginning on January 1, 2025, and 50 gallons per capita beginning January 1, 2030
- The development and adoption of long-term standards for the efficient use of water by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources on or before June 30, 2022
- Requiring proposed guidance for the development of countywide drought and water shortage contingency plans by January 1, 2020
- Establishing fines for water suppliers that commit outlined violations
- Requiring that outdoor irrigated landscape meet efficiency standards equivalent to those set forth in the Model Outdoor Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo), including those applicable to swimming pools and spas

Another critical note is that these guidelines, especially those regarding indoor and outdoor water use, are being given to the water supplier in order to meet their maximum allowed usages set forth in SB 606. While other reporting on this issue may have stated that water quotas for indoor and outdoor use were now in place for

individual users with heavy fines attached to violations, that is simply not the case. These two pieces of legislation provide framework for water districts to reduce their overall water usage, ranging from broad targets to specific guidelines on how to measure and reduce consumption.

Regarding outdoor water usage, there is a key piece of language in both bills that help protect the pool and spa industry from being lumped in with the potentially damaging formulas and guidelines set forth in MWELo. The current text of MWELo does not differentiate pools and spas from ornamental water features, classifying them as “high water users” so that their size and even usage is limited in landscapes. However in both AB 1668 and AB 606, there is language that states “Ornamental water features that are artificially supplied with water...shall be analyzed separately from swimming pools and spas.” This exemption means that pools and spas may not be considered with fountains and ponds, allowing for more nuanced and holistic overviews of the ways in which pools use water.

Both AB 1668 and SB 606 are complex and far-reaching pieces of legislation that will have long lasting impacts on how water is used and managed in our state. Conservation and reduction will be the norms moving forward, and it is critical that the pool and spa industry stay on top of these changes in order to avoid being left out or unfairly targeted.

The California Pool and Spa Association has been actively involved in not only the legislative process for these two bills but also the ongoing development of MWELo and other water regulations. Making the pool and spa industry’s voice is heard in the long process of updating MWELo and being an active participant in these pieces of legislation ensure that the industry will be able to continue to grow in California.

CPSA is currently the only trade association representing the swimming pool and spa industry that is active in both the legislative and regulatory processes on these important water issues. In order to protect the future of the industry in California and keep up the fight we need your support. Only a fraction of the industry are currently members of CPSA.

Our membership needs to grow to maintain and support the work and expertise required to be involved in this work in the next few years. Please send this informative article to your colleagues and customers who might be confused or concerned about the new laws, and if they are not already members of the association encourage them to join. We are entirely dependent on our members for support. Please join us in keeping your business protected.

At Least 35 People At San Jose Swimming Pool Exposed To Dangerous Chemical Mix

SAN JOSE — A summer afternoon at a neighborhood swimming pool took a frightening turn Thursday when at least 35 people, including kids, were exposed to a dangerous mixture of chemicals after a pool maintenance worker mixed the wrong products.

All of the people exposed to the combination of muriatic acid and chlorine — pool chemicals that created a gas cloud at Shadow Brook Swim Club in Almaden Valley — were decontaminated and transported to hospitals, according to the San Jose Fire Department.

Officials said the victims were taken to nine different local hospitals in 10 ambulances. The patients included children as young as 6 and a number of parents. San Jose Fire Capt. Mitch Matlow said a few of the those exposed to the gas cloud experienced shortness of breath and vomiting, but he could not say whether anyone was seriously injured.

Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center treated six patients for upper respiratory conditions and breathing difficulties, according to a hospital spokesman. Five of those six patients were released from the hospital by 4 p.m. Good Samaritan Hospital reported the three patients taken there for treatment were in “good condition.”

A spokeswoman at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center said the hospital treated four people, but she did not have their names and thus could not provide information about their condition late Thursday afternoon.

The incident happened just after noon at the neighborhood swim club, which is off Almaden Expressway about four miles south of Blossom Hill Road. The fire department, which sent its hazardous materials team, said the mix of chemicals could be “potentially fatal.”

“We are taking this very seriously,” Matlow said at the scene. “That combination of chemicals can release a gas cloud that can cause what’s called secondary drowning. The lungs start swelling up with its own fluid, the fluid blocks the airwaves and you drown in your own fluids.”

Lindsay Tarasco, 17, was teaching a group of 7- and 8 year-olds when she noticed a few moms urging everyone out of the pool and then an odd smell in the air.

“I smelled something, so I took a deep breath in. Bad mistake,” she said. “I realized there was definitely something poisonous in the air.”

After getting her swim students out of the pool, the group ran away from the smell, Tarasco said, describing a scene she called “a lot of chaos.”

“The kids were definitely freaked out,” she said. “A couple of them were sick, everyone was coughing, couldn’t breathe.”

Matlow said a contractor working for the pool maintenance company hired by the swim club was pouring pool chemicals into containers in the pump room and put at least one of the chemicals into the wrong spot.

Officials said that inside the pool’s pump room, the chlorine

level was at 15 parts per million Thursday afternoon — far above the maximum allowable exposure limit below 1 part per million. The swim club was directed to hire an environmental services company with proper equipment to clean up the scene, a process that Matlow said various agencies, including the fire department and the county health department, would oversee.

Matlow said exposure to a high level mixture of muriatic acid and chlorine could potentially lead to serious health consequences. “Long term, those patients could end up on ventilators and be attached to a breathing machine for quite some time until their lungs heal enough to breathe on their own,” he said.

Matthew Dworkin, 17, a swim instructor and member of the swim team who was teaching a lesson at the pool when the chemical mixture first started to affect pool-goers, was transported to Kaiser Permanente in San Jose, where he stayed for more than an hour. He said after being released that it still hurt for him to breathe and that when he took big breaths, he felt nauseated. His two brothers were also transported to local hospitals and treated, but they seemed to be OK, said their mother, Patty Dworkin, 47.

Rip Nahal, 40, was taken to San Jose Regional Medical Center along with her three children, ages 5, 8, and 10. It was their first week of swim lessons at Shadow Brook.

Nahal was feeling better after going to the hospital, but while it was happening, she said she felt a “tightness of the throat” and a “burning nose.” Her children also are doing better, but their throats hurt when they tried to breathe deeply, she said.

Staci Tenczar, vice president of the Shadow Brook homeowners association board of directors and involved with the swim team, said, “we have no comment at this time.”

According to a 2017 report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were an estimated 4,876 visits to emergency departments in 2012 that occurred after “pool chemical-associated health events.”

A review of 2008-15 California pesticide exposure records identified eight additional instances of toxic chlorine gas releases at public water venues caused by equipment failure or human error that sickened a total of 156 people.

In 2015, an incident in Antioch at the city-run Prewett Community Park affected 34 children who were playing in one of the facility’s five pools. The children, some of whom were taken to local hospitals, began to complain of trouble breathing, stinging eyes, irritated throats and burning skin.

In that instance, the pool’s water pump had apparently stopped running the night before the incident but the chemicals — sodium hypochlorite and muriatic acid — continued flowing into the pipes, where they built up in the small amount of water that remained there. When the pump began working again the following afternoon, the now-concentrated mix was flushed into the pool, according to county officials.

Reprinted from San Jose Mercury News

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