Power Outage Procedures for Swimming Pools

During a power outage, inoperative recirculation and purification systems will prevent the proper filtration and disinfection of the pool water. This quickly leads to unsafe conditions such as cloudy water, inadequate sanitizer levels, and high levels of bacteria and other disease causing organisms. The California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Chapter 20, Article 3, Section 65525 requires that the recirculation and purification systems be in operation when the pool is available for use.

The following procedures must be implemented in the event of a power outage:

1. Have bathers get out of the water.
2. Close the pool and post a closure sign.

The swimming pool may be reopened when the following conditions are met:

1. Power is restored.
2. Pool recirculation and purification systems are functioning properly.
3. Pump and chlorinator have been running for at least one hour.
4. Ensure proper pH and sanitizer residual. Check the sanitizer level as soon as possible.
5. Reset the timers for pumps, lights and other equipment.

If the pool is not under constant supervision, such as a Homeowner’s Association, Environmental Health recommends posting power outage procedures in the swimming pool area.

After power is restored, be sure to reset the timers for pumps, lights and other equipment.

If you have questions, please call Environmental Health at (925) 692-2500.