



Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department

Pool Pages

Fall 2012

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Upcoming CPO Training Opportunities

Many operators take a CPO (Certified Pool Operator) class not only to learn how to better operate and maintain pools and spas, but also to qualify their work at a particular facility as "certified" under the Thurston County Sanitary Code. One of the two major steps to become "certified" by Thurston County is to take a CPO course and pass the examination. The second major step is to undergo a three month probationary period. *Generally, we do not initiate the probationary period until we receive a copy of your CPO completion certificate.* It is your responsibility to provide us with a copy of your certificate as soon as you receive it. During the probationary period, you must demonstrate that you can operate the pool and/or spa responsibly and according to the rules and regulations. You must also complete and submit documentation of this work to us in a timely manner (self

inspection reports). After you have successfully completed your probationary period at the facility in your charge, the permit classification for the facility will be changed to "certified". In order to maintain this classification, you must continue to operate the pool and/or spa responsibly and continue to complete and submit your reports in a timely manner. For more detailed information, see Article VII of the Thurston County Sanitary Code or give us a call at (360) 867-2667.

It is your responsibility to provide us with a copy of your CPO certificate as soon as you receive it.



September and October CPO Courses

September 18 & 19, 2012 Vancouver, WA
 Charlie Neidlinger billsexton@bestaquatic.com
 443-614-4789

October 25 & 26, 2012 Bellevue
 Michael Dilley mikedilley@comcast.net
 425-641-2995

October 11 & 12, 2012 Olympia
 Phil Oaks propools@comcast.net
 360-241-7665

October 14 & 15, 2012 Seattle
 Charlie Neidlinger billsexton@bestaquatic.com
 443-614-4789

October 18 & 19, 2012 Vancouver, WA
 Charlie Neidlinger billsexton@bestaquatic.com
 443-614-4789

There may be courses available by other organizations that are similar to these. Not all courses are equivalent to the National Swimming Pool Foundation course. We strongly recommend that you check with us before taking other courses to verify that it is considered by our office to be equivalent to the NSPF course.

Chlorine Resistant Germs?

Are there germs that are chlorine resistant?

Yes - Many discussions have revolved around how resistant each of these germs is and whether the laboratory experiments represent swimming pool conditions. Current recommendations are based on the best and most reproducible **laboratory** information available. The table shows the **approximate** disinfection times for these germs in 1.0 ppm chlorinated water at a pH of 7.5 and a temperature of 77°F:

<i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7 (bacteria)	less than one minute
Hepatitis A (virus)	approx. 16 minutes
<i>Giardia</i> (protozoan parasite)	approx. 45 minutes
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (protozoan parasite)	approx. 9,600 minutes (6.7 days)

How severe can these illnesses be?

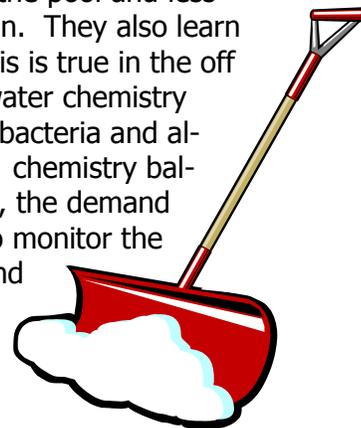
Very severe and even deadly. In 1998, an *E. coli* 0157:H7 outbreak associated with water park usage caused kidney failure in 7 children, with one child's death. Because *E. coli* is so sensitive to chlorine, outbreaks associated with water facilities are rare. *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite that can cause a severe case of diarrhea, is very resistant to chlorine. Changes such as increasing the minimum and maximum chlorine level standards as well as signage prohibiting pool or spa use for at least two weeks after the user has experienced vomiting or diarrhea have been adopted already to lower the risk of contracting this illness at a pool or spa.

Winterizing Outdoor Pools

It's about that time of year again. The weather is turning fall-like and most outdoor pools are closed until the spring. The challenge now is how to winterize that outdoor pool. Generally speaking, there are three ways to winterize a pool. The first way is to empty the water from the pool for the winter. The second way is to leave it filled but shut everything down and leave it alone. The third way is to leave it filled and to maintain it at an operational minimum. Given the relatively warm and mild winters and an abundance of shallow water tables here, the first and second choices may result in more harm than good. As most operators learn in their first summer or two of operating a pool, routine and frequent attention to



the pool is easier on you and the pool and less time consuming in the long run. They also learn after a couple of years that this is true in the off season. Maintaining proper water chemistry should prevent the growth of bacteria and algae. Since there is no loss of chemistry balance due to use by swimmers, the demand on chemicals and your time to monitor the pool is usually very low. Wind blown debris, rain or snow may cause the water chemistry to change, so you should check the pool after major storms. Continue to circulate the water, vacuum the pool and backwash the filter as needed. You may want to turn down the heater to conserve energy. You may wish to remove and store some of your supplies and equipment such as chemicals, handrails and the first aid kit. Remember to not store the chlorine compounds and the acids next to each other.



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www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehle/pools.html

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