

SORRY WE'RE LATE

In over four years of publishing CESWaterQuality.com newsletters, we have never been this late.... I guess we have a good excuse; since producing and faxing a newsletter requires power, fax lines, etc. Next month's edition of the newsletter will resume our normal "first of the month" schedule.

ARE YOU OK?

We all have been through a tough month with Hurricane Charlie, Frances, and now Ivan. Many of us have sustained tremendous damage to our properties, our equipment, our homes, and even our patience. We are very fortunate, that for the most part, our families are safe and healthy.

Many of our Florida-based manufacturers sustained damage to plant and inventories, but they are working hard to bring stock levels back to normal.

We are happy to report that CES is back in full operation. The power, phone lines, and fax lines are back in working order, and our inventory is back up to pre-hurricane levels. We apologize for those that had trouble reaching us because of problems with the phone lines, we were here waiting for your calls, but are now aware that many calls did not go through. We are also sorry for any product shipping delays, but we found that many truck lines suspended or delayed shipments into Florida as their trucks were diverted to carry plywood, generators, and food/supplies. All seems back to normal now.

POST STORM CLEANUP TIPS

We have received many calls regarding proper procedures and quick tips for restoration and clean up of affected pools. Here are just a few of the most common problems and solutions.

Physical clean up: We have never seen such a tremendous amount of dirt, sand, and vegetation enter our swimming pools. While in-pool gutter and main drain systems do a great job in helping maintain a clean pool, they cannot possibly clean a heavily soiled pool. Therefore manual cleaning with a vacuum system is the best option. We do recom-

mend that you first remove a majority of the pool debris with your skimming net first, as many vacuums have very limited strainer capacities, and it will take much longer to have the vacuum remove the larger stuff. For removal of large amount of debris, we recommend the "Hammerhead" vacuum system. The Hammerhead utilizes a 12-Volt in-pool high-power suction head with an integrated (and extra large) leaf bag. You simply attach the power head to a standard pole and lower into the pool; the Hammerhead will make quick work of large vegetation, sand, and other wind blown debris.

Restoring Flow Rates: We have had many complaints from customers that cannot restore their circulation rates back to DOH requirements. There are several potential causes of this problem including: circulation pump damage, clogged suction lines and skimmer boxes, clogged pump impellers, voltage problems and fluctuations, and dirty flowmeters. To quickly troubleshoot and resolve this problem, start with your circulating pump. Using the DOH-required instrumentation (vacuum gauge, pressure gauges, and system flowmeter), verify your original "pump curve" against the gauge reading. Normally the suction (vacuum gauge) should be reading -4 to -6 on pressure filters, and -5 to -15 on vacuum DE filters. If your readings vary significantly from these you probably have problems with a clogged impeller or suction piping. If suction readings are normal, check the pressure readings for elevated system pressures (above 25 PSI on some systems). High return line pressures could be caused by clogged filters, misadjusted valves, or in-line debris in the return jets. If pressures are normal, disassemble and re-clean (or replace) flowmeters.

Also, make sure that your voltage (from the power company) is normal, and that the loss of flow is not related to loss of RPM stemming from low voltage. CES technicians are trained to perform on-site pump curve analyses that examine flow, dynamic head, voltage, amperage, and we will field-verify that the pump is per-

forming to factory specifications. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your CES representative for more information.

Pool Draining: While some people have drained their pools to facilitate clean up, we would not recommend this as the first line of action. Draining the pool without first activating the hydrostatic valve system could lead to "popping" the pool (having it float completely out of the ground). Pool popping is common when the ground is completely saturated and the ground water levels are high. While spas and wading pools can be drained and refilled for quickest cleaning, pools are best kept full.

Pool Shocking: Storm surges and excessive rainwater can introduce many unwanted organics, bacteria, and irritants into pools. Once the pool is clean and the pool level has been restored to normal, we recommend shocking the pool to a level of 10-20 PPM (or more) depending on the degree of infiltration. The most popular dry shock is calcium hypochlorite (HTH) in 65% flakes, or Pulsar Power Shock in 70% (sugar-milled consistency) powder. You can also use bleach or other chlorinated shocks. Please make sure to close the pool to patrons during time of shocking and keep the pool closed until the pool chlorine levels have been reduced to 2-5 PPM. If you add a large amount of chlorine and the residual goes to zero very quickly, please contact your CES rep immediately. You could have a high chlorine demand situation that requires laboratory testing and more concentrated shocking to resolve.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

CES staff is poised to assist you with any post storm needs. From pool and equipment damage assessments, advice with post storm clean up, or even budgeting and equipment replacement options, our field staffs are ready to help.

Please contact your CES customer service representative with your needs and we will work quickly to return your operations to your high standards.