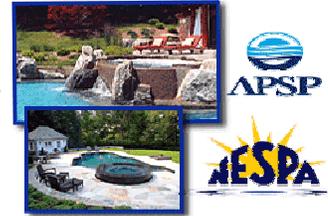


## CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION

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The Connecticut Spa and Pool Association is Connecticut's (CONSPA) statewide association of swimming pool & spa professionals. CONSPA is a charter of the national Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP.)

### 1. CONSPA supports *Raised Bill No. 267.*

- **Statement of Purpose:** To clarify the scope of swimming pool maintenance and repair work and to adopt regulations concerning trade areas for which licenses are required, trainees and continuing professional education.

### 2. CONSPA also supports the curriculum of CPO (Certified Pool Operator)

as a option to those **directly employed** to perform " routine pool / spa water treatment maintenance" by Connecticut's many municipal and commercial facilities equipped with pools or spas. CPO is a cost effective water treatment & chemical handling course, aimed to reduce injuries and illness, minimize public pool closing due to health dangers, minimize costly repairs, and establish a premeditated chain of action in response to hazardous emergencies.

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**Supplemental Bulletin Attached**



## HEALTH ALERT

# Safe Handling and Storage of Pool Chemicals

Each year swimming pool operators and maintenance staff suffer injuries and illnesses due to exposure to chemicals used to treat water in public and private pools.\* In many cases, these exposures also harm bathers and other occupants of the facility. Acute exposures to dust and gases from Chlorine-containing pool chemicals can lead to respiratory injuries, asthma exacerbations and eye and skin irritation.

Safe handling, mixing and storing of pool chemicals is necessary to prevent unintentional chemical exposures.



\*Pools include spas, whirlpools, wading pools, hot tubs, water and spray parks.

### Case Study:

In 2012, two employees working at a Connecticut hotel attempted to adjust pool chemical levels in the hotel swimming pool unaware that the employer had changed chemical suppliers. The employees chose the pool chemicals by lid color and container size instead of reading the label and unknowingly added muriatic acid to the chlorine feeder. The acid reacted with the chlorine inside the feeder, creating a chlorine gas cloud. Both workers were exposed causing respiratory distress as well as potentially exposing building occupants. Chlorine gas dispersed through the building's ventilation system causing a mandatory evacuation of the facility by responding EMS Personnel. The exposure level was determined to be five times the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limits for Chlorine.



Steps to prevent unintentional chemical exposure can be achieved with proper hazard recognition, training, labeling and storage of containers and chemical handling methods.

### Safe Handling and Chemical Storage:

Manually adding chemicals to pool water must be performed by carefully following the manufacturer's instructions. It should only be performed by employees who clearly understand safe handling and storage precautions of pool chemicals. The following precautions highlight important safety guidelines for pool operators and maintenance staff.

- ✓ Always add chemicals to water; never water to the chemical.
- ✓ Adequate personnel protective equipment (PPE) such as safety goggles and gloves, should be used at all times when handling chemicals.
- ✓ Chemical storage areas and pump rooms should be well ventilated with a separate ventilation exhaust to the outside (if possible).
- ✓ Store incompatible chemicals away from each other, including liquids and solids and prevent water from rainfall/plumbing leaks from contacting chemical supplies.
- ✓ Do not store flammable materials or ignition sources such as gas-powered equipment in the chemical storage area.
- ✓ Follow product label directions for safe disposal; never reuse containers.
- ✓ Contact your local municipal recycling facility or the Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency for proper disposal procedures for pool chemicals in unlabeled containers at <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2714&q=324884>

Always respond to pool chemical spills immediately.  
Follow your pool's Emergency Chemical Spill Response Plan,  
and be sure to contact the proper authorities and management.

