

# Pool of Knowledge

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## What is a Pool Operator?

Have you ever thought about who the pool operator is? Or what they do? Is it the maintenance person, owner, rental manager, or the pool service? The code defines the pool operator as the pool owner or a person delegated by the pool owner to conduct public pool operation and maintenance. The pool's owner is still responsible for compliance with regulations. Every public pool must be under the supervision of a pool operator. Specific duties and responsibilities of the pool operator are:



- Keep pool operating procedures on site and available for review.
- Maintain manufacturers' instructions for the operation and maintenance of all mechanical and electrical equipment and water treatment systems at the pool site
- Test and record the disinfectant residual and pH of the pool daily. Free chlorine must be maintained at a minimum of 2.0 ppm (with stabilizer); pH 7.2-7.8; and combined chlorine below 0.4 ppm.
- Test and record the cyanuric acid level once a month ensuring the level is maintained below 100ppm

Maintain the temperature of spas and heated pools at or below 104 degrees F and record once per day. Make sure proper decontamination procedures are followed if a fecal, vomitus or blood contamination incident occurs.

## What Determines a Pool Closure?

As the summer heats up, people enjoy swimming to cool off. Swimming should be a safe and enjoyable experience. Furthermore, it is important to ensure the swimming pool is a safe environment for swimmers. Therefore, pool operators need to close the pool or spa if these conditions exist:

- Poor water clarity - when you cannot see the main drain while standing next to the pool
- The drain cover is damaged, loose, or missing
- The spa emergency shut-off switch is not working or missing
- All electrical hazards -such as water in the pool light or exposed wires
- When feces, vomit, or blood is in the water; including the time it takes to fully disinfect the pool.
- Gate or fence is damaged, does not self-latch, and/or broken. If there are gaps allowing entry to the pool area they must be fixed immediately
- Sharp objects in the pool or pool enclosure -such as broken glass
- Free chlorine is less than 2.0 ppm or over 10 ppm
- A pH reading below 7.2 or above 7.8
- Water temperature is over 104 degrees F



- Improperly functioning pump and/or recirculation system
- Near-drowning or drowning event
- The pool light is not working after dark

The pool operator should also close the pool when chemicals are manually added to the water until the chemicals are at the required levels.

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*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Scott Stanley, Health Education Specialist II at 800-442-2283 or [Scott.Stanley@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Scott.Stanley@dph.sbcounty.gov).*

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**We appreciate the effort you make to protect the public's health in our County.**