

Independent Pool and Spa Service Association

Volume 8, No. 4, April 2007

Diving Board Insurance

I recently learned of a diving board injury lawsuit that settled in November 2006 for \$10 million dollars. John Robinson dba: Advance Pool Maintenance of Bakersfield, CA replaced an existing diving board with a new Inter-Fab board. On June 19, 2004 a man jumped from the board and landed head first in the shallow end. He broke his neck and is now a quadriplegic.

The lawsuit was filed against many parties, including the homeowner, (paid \$5.5 million), the seller of the house (paid \$2.5 million), Inter-Fab (paid \$1 million) and Advance Pool Maintenance (paid \$1 million). Advance Pool Maintenance is insured by Fireman's Fund Insurance.

John Robinson was an IPSSA member until May 1, 2004, when I believe he joined the Bakersfield UPA chapter. The diving board injury occurred 6 weeks later. This is the second diving board injury in recent history. In the Meneely case, a jury awarded \$11 million, which put NSPI out of business.

IPSSA's group general liability program is a major asset to all members and it is a reason that many new members are attracted to IPSSA. Todd Starner, president of the Manasota Florida chapter just told me last weekend that he saved \$3000 annually with IPSSA's general liability insurance program and also now has much better coverage. Clearly we need to protect this program for the 3700 families that depend on it.

For the past two decades I have used exclusions very rarely and only when it was required to protect the future of our program. It is now that time again. **Effective April 1, 2007 IPSSA's renewal policy will contain an exclusion for claims resulting from the member's installation or replacement of a diving board.** Notification to the membership is critical and we will need to include a prominent announcement in the IPSSAN as soon as possible.

Continued on page 5

More than 1.5 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States.

Melanoma – a deadly form of skin cancer – is on the rise. And the more time you spend in the sun, the higher your chances of contracting the disease.

This is also true for other less fatal, but still serious, forms of skin cancer.

The following story was published in our February 2007 newsletter, this friend past away March 2007, he was 48 years old. Take his story to hart and take care of yourselves.

READING THIS COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

For 25 years I've enjoyed working on pools, A/C, sprinkler systems among many other things outside.

Always getting a nice tan and people saying how well I tan and how good it always looks.

Many of my co-workers have great tans, and would work at times with shirts off.

Well, in December 2003 my doctor cut a small mole off my shoulder and sent it in to be tested. It came back melanoma cancer. The following week I had to have surgery on my shoulder, neck under my arm, and the center of my back to remove all of the cancer and limp nodes the cancer had spread to. I've never returned to work. Taking chemo of all types, I've have been in and out of hospitals since 2004. In 2005 my cancer seemed to have receded, but in August of 2006 my cancer came back! It was found in my lungs, liver and left kidney.

As we treated these areas with more chemo, the cancer kept spreading. A CT-scan showed it had spread to my brain, groin area and more was found across my lungs. Which meant, no tumors to remove. The cancer was more like it was painted everywhere inside of my body.

Doctors used radiation on my brain to try and slow it down. MELANOMA can't be cured with radiation – only slowed down – maybe.

Now January 2007 I'm dying with 15-30 days to live. Going to Houston since all else has failed, life is precious I wont go down without a fight.

Please use sun screen, hats, etc. to protect yourself and your loved ones when you are in the sun. Tanning beds, which I've never been in, take 15 minutes to equal 8 hours in the sun. One sun burn now, increases your chance for cancer by 50%.

I'm not in your line of work, but have known SPLASH for years and wanted to try to reach some of you out there. If I can make a difference to one person I will have done my job. Anonymus take care out there

Elemental (Gas) Chlorine

Article from IPSSA Continuing Education Series Book Chapter 3 – continued from last month

Elemental (Gas) Chlorine

Elemental chlorine is a gas. It is a greenish-yellow gas that is 2.5 times heavier than air. Under sufficient pressure, it becomes a liquid. This is where some confusion starts.

Outside the pool industry elemental chlorines is sometimes referred to as “liquid chlorine” or “liquefied chlorine gas.” In the pool industry, liquid chlorine or liquefied chlorine gas is called gas chlorine. Liquid chlorine is what we call bleach or sodium hypochlorite.

Chlorine is a member of the Group-VIIA elements on the Periodic Table of the Elements or what are called halogens. (The other halogens are fluorine (F), bromine (Br), iodine (I) and astatine (At). The names of all these halogens end in – ine.

The name chlorine is taken from the Greek word chloros or khloros which depending on the reference used and it either means “green,” “greenish yellow” or “yellowish green.”

Chlorine is never found uncombined in nature. It exists in nature as the negative chloride ion (Cl⁻) with a valence of – 1 (That’s why it is written with minus sign as a superscript). Each element can have a possible 8 electrons around it. Elements also want to have the full 8 electrons. Therefore an element that has only 7 electrons will try to gain 1 electron. When it does so, the resulting ion has a charge of -1.

Most of the chlorine gas produced today is manufactured by three types of electrolytic cells: diaphragm, mercury and membrane. In general, chlorine is produced from a solution of salt (called brine), water and electricity. About 70 percent of the gas chlorine produced in the U.S. is made by the diaphragm cell. The annual total is about 12.3 million tons which is about 25 billion pounds.

Chlorine gas is dangerous. It is a poison to humans by inhalation. It is also a strong irritant to eyes and mucous membranes. It is an irritant to the respiratory tract at only 3 ppm in air. In the presence of moisture, chlorine gas forms oxygen and HCl (hydrochloric acid) – each of which causes inflammation of contacted tissue.

A concentration of 3.5 ppm in air produces a detectable odor; 15 ppm causes immediate irritation to the throat; 50 ppm is dangerous for even a short exposure and 1,000 ppm may be fatal.

In the pool industry chlorine gas is usually seen in 2000lbs., 150lbs. and 20lbs. steel containers. Some very large old swimming pools use chlorine gas to chlorinate the water. Many of these pools are “grandfathered” to allow them to continue using chlorine gas. Because it is so dangerous and I am sure because of public safety, chlorine gas use in swimming pools is becoming a memory. In order to use it today, special rooms must be built with fixtures and components that are non-corrosive. They must have scales, secondary containment, gas sensors, alarms, positive ventilation, self-contained breathing apparatus, leak detection equipment and much more. They must get permits from a number of agencies. They must get permission from fire departments and hazmat agencies. They also must provide documents for worker-right-to-know and community right-to-know.

As if that wasn’t enough, employees are required to be EPA certified pesticide applicators. Most pools have found that compliance is much more expensive than just switching to another type of chlorine

When chlorine gas is dissolved into water, it hydrolyzes rapidly according to the following equations: $Cl_2 + H_2O \rightarrow HOCl + H^+ + Cl^-$ the words that go with this equation are as follows:

Chlorine gas plus water yields hypochlorous acid plus hydrogen ion plus chloride ion (shown here is the ionic result. Another way of stating this is that chlorine gas plus water yields hypochlorous acid and hydrochloric acid. Then the hydrochloric acid ionizes into a hydrogen ion and a chloride ion.)

Then a second reaction takes place according to this equation: $HOCl \leftrightarrow H^+ + OCl^-$ (hypochlorous acid dissociates into hydrogen ion plus hypochlorite ion)

This is a reversible reaction and the degree of dissociation of HOCl into OCl⁻ is dependent upon the pH of the water. These reactions are unique to chlorine gas. One of the atoms of chlorine gas (a chlorine molecule has two atoms of chlorine – that’s why we write it as Cl₂) becomes positively charged and forms hypochlorous acid (HOCl) while the other atom of chlorine is negatively charged and combines with hydrogen to make hydrochloric acid (HCl). Compounds of chlorine such as sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) form HOCl by releasing the sodium and picking up a hydrogen ion (H⁺).

The solubility of chlorine gas in water is 7.29 grams per liter at 68°F (20°C) and 1 atm (atmosphere). So it dissolves pretty much instantly and completely in water.

Because of its solubility, all that is needed to apply chlorine gas to water is a diffuser, injector or educator and a couple of seconds contact time. In large swimming pools, the chlorine gas is injected right into the return line to the pool where there is lots of water and plenty of contact time.

There are other variations and methods but most of them are easy enough to visualize.

Up until recently, there were companies that would inject chlorine gas into residential pool water on a weekly basis. They usually use 20lb. steel chlorine cylinders that resemble small air tanks used by fire fighters or skin divers. They have a regulator and a method of diffusing the gas into the water. This is usually a square ring about 12 to 18 inches on a side made from plastic with many small holes drilled into it. Some weights are added to keep it on the bottom of the pool and a plastic hose connects the regulator to the diffuser. The gas is turned on and released into the deep end of the pool.

Most of these companies have now switched to another type of chlorine, and no longer use gas. This is not because of any problems, but probably because of public pressure in bringing chlorine gas in quantity into residential areas. Also some believe that these chlorine gas service techs should be considered EPA pesticide applicators. This would make compliance practically impossible. The segment of the pool industry using chlorine gas has a perfect track record. There have been no reported accidents.

The reason chlorine gas has been so popular is that it is cheap. You can buy a pound of chlorine gas for around 20 cents. Compare that to \$ 1.00 to \$ 1.50 per gallon for liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) and even more for cal hypo, dichlor and trichlor.

Will be continued next month.....

The IPSSA “Continuing Education Series” book and the IPSSA “Basic Training Manual” are available for a cost of \$25 each at our member meeting.

Chapter Supporters

 <p>Jon Gartner District Sales Manager</p> <p>972-672-2470 jgartner@raypak.com</p>	 <p>Heidi Amos 817-874-3903</p> <p>Bill Davis 972-247-8919</p> <p>Pat Dickerson 972-333-2958</p>	<p>Paul Putscher Senior Distr. Manager 817-301-6824 pputscher@haywardnet.com</p> <p>Randy Dornan Direct Sales Manager 214-287-4213 rdornan@haywardnet.com</p> <p>Brad Stoker Technical Manager 972-989-4092 bstoker@haywardnet.com</p> <p>Alyssa Markham Retail Sales 214-608-2229</p>  <p>America's #1 Pool Water Systems</p>
 <p>Craig Ponder Fort Worth Branch Manager</p> <p>Dave Stanat Fort Worth Sales Representative</p> <p>817-595-0525 – Fort Worth Branch * Fax 817-595-3270</p> <p>Kenny Wainwright Grand Prairie Branch Manager</p> <p>972-988-0657 – Grand Prairie Branch</p>	 <p>Ric Hart Billy Ferguson Grant Eaton</p> <p>800-822-7933 ext. 3434 Fax 877-327-1403</p>	<p>Dalan Jones Branch Manager</p> <p>Brandon Wood Business Development Grapevine, TX 76051</p> <p>817-410-8894 - 817-410-1338</p> 
 <p>Dan Warriner Territory Sales Manager dwarriner@jandy.com 800-227-1442 ext 353</p> <p>Terry Williams – Territory Sales Manager twilliam@jandy.com - 800-227-1442 ext 387</p> <p>Randy Barnard - Service Manager, N. TX rbarnard@jandy.com - 800-227-1442 ext 312</p> <p>Jim Hill – jhill@jandy.com - 800-227-1442 ext 372</p>	 <p>diversified business interests Manufacturers' Representatives</p> <p>Steve Cofer</p> <p>214-404-8771 - Steve@DBIReps.com www.DBIReps.com</p>	<p>Char Thompson</p> <p>817-205-9374</p>  <p>THE ORIGINAL LEAK SPECIALISTS™ www.americanleakdetection.com</p>
 <p>Cliff Davis Regional Sales Manager</p> <p>cdavis@wek.cc 214-350-6900 - 972-877-2341 cell</p>	<p>DUHAMELL ASSOCIATES Manufacturers Representatives P. O. BOX 1285 Arlington, TX 76004</p> <p>Darrell Plemons</p> <p>Office 817-275-1242 Fax 817-275-1249 Cell 817-228-2453 Email dplemons@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Jami Pittman</p> <p>Stellar Sales</p> <p>Office 940-455-2701 Fax 940-455-2702 Cell 214-507-5658 Email StellarSales.JP@cs.com</p>
<p><i>IPSSA encourages its Members to Support and patronize all of our fine Chapter Supporters</i></p> <p><i>IPSSA – support each other – one voice becomes a mighty roar!</i></p>	 <p>RAM CHEMICAL & SUPPLY, INC.</p> <p>Timothy C. Kerley Senior Sales Director</p> <p>800-456-3459</p>	 <p>Raymond Arouesty</p> <p>800-497-8600 800-833-3433 800-497-2229 Fax</p> <p>www.arrowinsuranceservice.com</p>

Fort Worth



Chapter

March Meeting Attendance

The following member companies were not represented in March at our meeting:

Alliance Pools & Spas, Alpha Pool Service, Alpine Pool Service, Aquamaid Pool Techs Inc., Byron's Pool Service, Clean Waters Pool Service, Ken Hamilton's Pool Repair, Miko's, Robbie Rogers Swimming Pool,



If there is any mistake let me know, Splash Gordon's 817-589-7707 – Chapter Secretary. Our standing rules call for a \$ 54.00 fine for missing two meetings in a row. Upon a third consecutive absence, the board may remove membership. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are counted in attendance at the meeting or to let one of the officers know that you are unable to attend a meeting! Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

SPLASH

WEBTALK

As an IPSSA member, you are listed on our website. We have included an email link and a link to your own websites, if you have a link from IPSSA you must link back to the appropriate IPSSA website, or the link to your personal website will be removed. If your information on the IPSSA websites (that includes all of IPSSA Texas) needs to be updated don't hesitate to contact me. ipahl@sbcglobal.net – or – 817-595-1167



Thank you, Ingrid

Web Design and Maintenance - Questions, Problems, or Comments?

Our Member Meeting are:

Tuesday, April 17th

Tuesday, May 15th

La Playa Maya Restaurant,
1540 North Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76106 - 817-624-8411

That's a few blocks south of the
Stockyards. We try to arrive around 6:30 PM with the meeting called to
order at 7:00 PM.

We do our best to be finished by 9:00 PM.

Speakers for the April
Member Meeting:



Officers Meeting – Splash's House

Monday, April 9th – 7pm

Monday, May 7th – 7pm

**Be seen in the IPSSA Fort Worth
newsletter.**

Be a Fort Worth Chapter supporter.

Chapter supporters receive a small ad in our newsletter all year long. You will always be welcome at our member meetings and we will be happy to run any article in the newsletter you wish to submit.

Supporter dues \$ 250.00/annually

Advertising prices: Special ads can be placed in individual issues or you can "rent" space for an entire year.

You can change the ad in your space anytime you wish:

Full page ads - \$ 1,000.00/year or \$100.00/issue

Half page ads - \$ 500.00/year or \$ 50.00/issue

Quarter page ads - \$ 350.00/year or \$ 35.00/issue

Inserts \$ 100.00/issue

Business Card size ads - \$ 100.00/year or \$ 25.00/issue

For information call Jason S. Bonser
817-605-0194

POOL QUIZ

1. In general, to superchlorinate a pool with no measurable chlorine residual, bring the free available chlorine level up to 5-10ppm and hold that level for 4 hours

- a. True
- b. False



2. pH and total alkalinity are related. It is not possible to change one without having an affect on the other

- a. True
- b. False

3. pH influences the effectiveness of chlorine and bromine at about the same rate.

- a. True
- b. False

4. How can you destroy the chloramines in a swimming pool?

- a. Raise the pH
- b. Lower the pH
- c. Add 3-6 times the normal amount of chlorine to the pool
- d. Both a + b

5. Trichlor is highly acidic and can do which of the following?

- a. Harm equipment
- b. Harm plaster
- c. Corrode metals
- d. All the above



Stellar
Sales

Outstanding Sales and
Service Support

www.stellarsales.net

www.jacksmagic.com

Know Jack.
No Stains.

jack's
magic



**PURIFIBER® LEAVES
D.E. IN THE DUST.**

For A Cleaner Safer Pool and
Environment Use Purifier®

- The only NSF 50 approved filter media; Health, Safety and Performance set it above the rest!
- Completely safe alternative to D.E.
- Biodegradable and non-toxic
- Greatly enhances the performance of all pool and spa D.E. sand and cartridge filters
- Less dust with use of pre-weighed bags

Want to try Purifier? Contact Stellar Sales to learn more
about Purifier and other Jack's Magic products

Jami Pittman • Stellar Sales • 1237 Post Oak Ct., Bartonville, TX 76226
940.455.2701 • Fax: 940.455.2702 • Cell: 214.507.5658 • jpittman@stellarsales.net

..... continued from page 1

Diving Board Insurance

This exclusion will not provide an undue burden on the membership that has generally heeded my warnings against installing or replacing diving boards. This recent lawsuit, however, make it very clear that not all members have recognized the risk.

I will be writing a detailed story for the IPSSAN on the details for the lawsuit and continue to discuss this issue in all my lectures. I trust you will support my decision that will help assure the continued availability of our group liability program. I look forward to your comments.

Ray Arouesty

The installer has an independent duty under the law, regardless of mfc guidelines. He may be held liable for injuries if, for example, the board was too long, had too much spring or if the pool was not appropriate for the board. This is true even if the installer replaces a board with an exact duplicate of the board originally installed on the pool. And remember, members don't always follow guidelines.

It is important to remember that the pool tech can be found liable EVEN IF others are at fault as well. Those others could be the homeowner, the diving board mfc, the distributor, or a pool inspector. The pool tech can be held liable EVEN IF the injured party was drunk when he dove into a dark pool at night. In most states the court allocates fault among all parties, including the injured party. This is known in the law as comparative negligence.

The membership as a whole needs to know the following: Diving board accidents are usually very large. The Meneely was \$11 million and this latest case was \$10 million. Fireman's Fund settled this last case because it presumably thought that a judgment at trial could be much higher. The pool tech had \$1 million coverage. This pool tech was an IPSSA member until 6 weeks before the accident. Had he remained in IPSSA we would all be dealing with ramifications of this case. We got very lucky on this.

The membership needs to know the following: I may not be able to get another carrier someday if we are cancelled from our carrier due to excessive claims. If that happens then the entire program folds and members will be buying individual coverage at 2 to 3 times the IPSSA price. How many members will remain in IPSSA if it has no group liability insurance coverage.

The membership needs to know the following: They have \$1 million coverage. If a jury awards \$10 million and the pool tech is found to be 50% at fault, the insurance company will pay \$1 million. The pool tech will be on his own for the remaining \$4 million judgment.

I spent over 6 months courting other insurance carriers after Travelers dumped us 3 years ago. It was very tough to find a carrier willing to allow pool men to determine who they insure. I am very good at what I do, but the major claims associated with diving boards could make it impossible for me to get another company in the future.

Members insisting on installing diving boards should consider another insurance program. They will not be covered, however, for chemical claims, haz-mat spills, mold clean up costs due to overfilling pools, professional liability coverage for inspections, or faulty workmanship coverage. I am the only one that offers all that. They will pay quite a bit more for insurance outside of IPSSA.

I can understand the frustration of any member that feels that our society has abandoned the concept of personal responsibility and has allowed the idiots of the world to prosper from their idiotic actions. But as a lawyer and the guardian of this insurance program my focus has to be on making sure that this program remains available as a member benefit in the future.

In recent years we have increased insurance coverage under this program including the addition of pollution coverage and mold. A few years ago we doubled the amount of coverage available for pay for haz-mat spills. It is very rare that I exclude coverage. If I have failed to convince any member on the importance of this issue, I guess they will just need trust me on this one.

Feel free to forward this email. I am also available to discuss this with any member.

Ray Arouesty

Arrow Insurance Service (800)833-3433 Fax: (805)955-9535

What happens when you build the pump room AFTER the equipment is installed?

You wouldn't suspect such an innocent looking pump room to have so much chaos. Open the door and what do you find? A TR100 sand filter right in the doorway, and not room to get to the rest of the equipment. The heater is plumbed with flex hose, "a big nononono!!!" If you want to clean out your pump basket you would have to climb over pvc pipe to get to the pump. Someone had the bright idea to just take a sledgehammer and beat a hole in the back wall, all you have to do now to empty the pump basket is get on your hands and knees and crawl through the hole.



The Texas Pool and Spa Show planning for the 2008 show is underway. We are looking for a few good Men and Women. If you are interested in being considered for a committee or board member please talk to Jason or Dave.

The 2008 show will be at the Fort Worth Convention Centre, and we are all very excited about all the upcoming events.



The Pool Guy
Paul Nelson



PUMPS

TriStar™ Max Rate Pump — The newest member of the TriStar family.

Advanced fluid dynamic design delivers superior flow, energy efficiency and value. Heavy-duty, standard efficiency PSC motor runs 10%-15% cooler, for greater dependability and longer life.



TriStar Waterfall Pump — A spectacular addition to the TriStar line.

The low head/high flow TriStar Waterfall Pumps are specifically designed for high-volume waterfall and negative-edge applications. Offered in two sizes, 75 GPM and 120 GPM, they run 60% quieter and use 60% less electricity than standard single-speed pumps.



LIGHTING

ColorLogic® 3.0 — Unparalleled choices limited only by your imagination.

Now an additional 50% brighter! Five fixed colors and seven preprogrammed shows to create the evening's entertainment. Patented Chromacore® LED technology and built-in microprocessor produce over 1,500 colors. Full integration with Aqua Logic® adds even more choices: four additional shows (including two that are user-programmable), adjustable fixed colors, adjustable show speed, plus motion and brightness control.



***DID YOU KNOW THAT HAYWARD'S COLORLOGIC LED LIGHT REPLACES STANDARD 500 WATT POOL LIGHTS AND ONLY DRAWS 50 WATTS. YOU ALSO GET 7 COLOR SHOWS AND 5 FIXED COLORS. DO YOUR HOMEOWNERS WANT TO UPGRADE THEIR POOL EXPERIENCE? THINK ABOUT THAT NEXT TIME YOU REPLACE A LIGHT OR BULB.**

YOUR HAYWARD TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE IPSSA FORT WORTH CHAPTER FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR AWARDING HAYWARD

"Chapter Supporter of the Year"

Paul Putscher – Senior District Sales Manager – Cell#817-301-6824 pputscher@haywardnet.com

Randy Dornan – District Sales Manager – Cell#214-287-4213 rdornan@haywardnet.com

Alyssa Markham – Retail Sales Specialist – Cell#214-608-2229 amarkham@haywardnet.com

Brad Stoker – Technical Service Manager – Cell#972-989-4092 bstoker@haywardnet.com

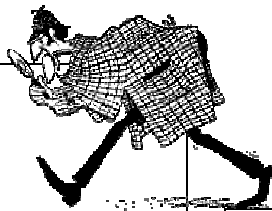




Please check our on-line calendar for other upcoming events!
 Contact me to keep the calendar updated -
 Let me know when there is an event coming up that should be brought to everyone's attention!

IPSSA Fort Worth
 P.O. Box 820852
 N. Richland Hills, TX 76180
www.ipssafortworth.com

Brad's Corner



Got pool questions, Get answers!
 Submit questions to "Dear Brad" dearbrad@gmail.com
 Look for answers every month in the newsletter

April Calendar

April 8th Easter
 Officer Meeting – April 9th
 Region 9 Meeting Austin – April 14th
 Member Meeting – April 17th
 May 3-5 Mayfest – www.mayfest.org
 Sunday, May 13th Mothers Day
 Member Meeting – May 15th
 Monday, May 28th Memorial Day



Pool Quiz results



1. a – true
2. a – true
3. a - true
4. c - Add 3-6 times the normal amount of chlorine to the pool
5. d – all the above

Officers:

Jason S. Bonser – President 817- 605-0194
 David Boyd – Vice President 817-337-8585
 Gordon F. Slagle – Secretary 817-595-1167
 Paul Garcia – Treasurer 817-247-5247
 Paul Nelson –

www.ipssafortworth.com

Ingrid Slagle – ipahl@sbcglobal.net
 Website/Newsletter 817-595-1167

Fritos Salad



What you need:

- 1 bag original Fritos
- 2 cans Black-eyed peas
- 1 can Black-eyed peas with jalapeño
- 1 copped onion
- 2-4 Avocados
- 1 – 8oz. Catalina French Salad dressing

What you do:

1. cop onion
2. dice avocados
3. mix all ingredients in a bowl (except Fritos)
4. when ready to serve add Fritos to taste

This is a quick, easy and very tasty side dish, great with hamburgers, steaks or tex-mex