

# The RECIRCULATOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
 VOL. 66, NO. 2 – OCTOBER 2010

## Certified Pool/Spa Operator® (CPO®) Courses – October- December 2010

Sponsor	Dates	Location	Contact	Address	Telephone
Iowa Parks & Recreation Association	October 19-20 November 16-17	Cedar Rapids Burlington	Cathy Shutts	1534 Penrose St Grinnell, IA 50112 E-mail: cshutts@pcpartner.net	(641)236-3917 Fax: (641)236-6779
SLC Pool Consultants	October 19-20	Des Moines	Steve Craig	Swimming Pool Supply 5292 NW 111th Drive Grimes, IA 50111 E-mail: steve@spspools-spas.com	(515)986-3931
Certified Pool Trainers of Iowa & Minnesota	September 29-30	Okoboji	John Szymanski	65910-267 <sup>th</sup> Street Alden MN 56009-4211	(800)253-7235 Fax: (507)863-2367
ACCO Unlimited Corporation	None Scheduled		Jessica Pollard	5300 NW 55 <sup>th</sup> Ave Johnston IA 50131 E-mail: jpollard@accounlimited.com	(515)278-0487 Fax: (515)278-2183
Aqua Palace This is the “Blended” training ( <a href="http://nspf.org/CPO/CPOBlend.ed.aspx">http://nspf.org/CPO/CPOBlend.ed.aspx</a> ); some of the material is offered online. The training is completed and the test given at the one-day on-site training.	November 17 December 15	Council Bluffs Council Bluff	Jennifer Roberts	810 Woodbury Ave Council Bluffs IA 51503 E-mail: <a href="mailto:aquapalace@aol.com">aquapalace@aol.com</a>	(712)329-4180

Check with the individual training organizations, your inspection agency, or the Iowa Department of Public Health at (515)281-8722 for courses that may be scheduled later. You can also check for courses in Iowa and surrounding states at <http://nspf.org/CPO/CPOSchedule.aspx>.

### Inspector Changes

There have been substantial changes in inspection responsibility for north central and central Iowa. Attached is an Excel file with the contact information for the agencies and persons responsible for the

inspections. A couple more changes are pending. We'll let you know when the arrangements are complete. This information is also on the Swimming Pool page of the IDPH website at [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/swimming\\_pools.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/swimming_pools.asp).

## **Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF), professionals from the public health/regulatory community, and industry professionals are collaborating to develop a Model Aquatic Health Code. The intent is to provide regulatory agencies with the best recommendations for pool design and operation in the hope that standards can be made more uniform across the United States.

Individual modules will be posted on the CDC website for review and comment. Currently the Operator Training module is up for comment until October 31. We encourage you to monitor the site for future modules and comment on any issues of interest to you. Several of the modules will be discussed at the World Aquatic Health Conference in Colorado Springs, October 7-8.

The path to the modules on the CDC site is not very intuitive: Go to the Healthy Swimming page <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/>, click on “Pools & Hot Tubs” in the middle of the page, select “Model Aquatic Health Code” from the list on the left, select “Structure and Content” from the list top left, scroll down to “Draft MAHC Modules for Public Comment.” The direct link to the “Structure and Content” page is <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/structure-content/>.

## **VGB Follow Up**

Because of the changes in inspection responsibilities, IDPH staff was out inspecting pool in a few counties during the latter part of the summer. While it appears that almost all of the pools are in physical compliance with the federal VGB requirements and Iowa rules, there are still documentation and testing issues.

The product sheets for drain covers could not be located at some pools. A few pools had documentation for a different model of drain cover than was installed. Several pools did not have any indication of when the drain covers and safety vacuum release systems (SVRS) were installed. An SVRS is required only for single drain pools with covers that are not unblockable and the drain is directly connected to a pump.

The product information for all types and brands of SVRS calls for periodic testing of the device. Iowa rules require testing at least monthly; a record of the tests must be kept. The method of testing is specific to the individual brand of SVRS; the product manual

needs to be checked. Operators have told us that they can activate an SVRS by starting to vacuum the pool or by gradually closing a valve upstream of the SVRS sensor point.

A few skimmer pools have not updated equalizer fittings or have not plugged the equalizers. It appears that new fittings are available now to replace existing, non-compliant fittings. Pool operators may still choose to plug the equalizers, but they will need to monitor the water level to prevent damage to the circulation pump.

We recently checked a newly constructed swimming pool and spa. The builder used fittings he apparently had in stock for some time for the equalizer openings in the pool and spa, fittings that were OK before VGB, but that do not meet the requirements of the current version of the ASME standard. New fittings must have A112.19.8-2007 (or later year) stamped or embossed on the fitting; earlier fittings referred to A112.19.8M with no year.

## **Lighting – A New Inspection Emphasis**

The tragedy at the Pella Aquatic Center this summer should have alerted pools across the state to review procedures for after-dark activities. One of the issues that received significant press coverage was the lighting or lack thereof at the pool where the two boys drowned. IDPH admitted that checking the lights is not on the inspection checklist and that inspectors were not instructed to determine if pool lighting was functional.

IDPH is working on direction to local inspectors to remedy the oversight. The inspectors will not evaluate the adequacy of the lighting, only whether the lights turn on or not, though if an indoor pool room is excessively dark, we will expect that to be noted on the inspection report.

For outdoor pools with lifeguards, you will be asked if activities are permitted after sunset and, if the answer is yes, the inspector will ask you to turn on the pool lights, both underwater and overhead. Pools without lifeguards will be evaluated based on the posted hours, but if underwater lights are present, they will be checked. For indoor pools in general use, inspectors will assume they are used after dark and will check the lights.

Based on experience this summer, we know that turning on the lights isn't always easy; some are equipped with sensors to turn on only at night or timers. We request that if you have these types of

controls at your pool, that you check them to determine if they can be bypassed for inspection purposes.

### ***IDPH Staffing Changes***

Michael Magnant, the lead person for swimming pool regulation at IDPH for a number of years, has indicated his retirement at the end of 2010 after 30 years with the department. Debbi Cooper and Heather Lloyd from our current staff are in training to provide inspections and to answer rules questions. IDPH is actively recruiting for a new engineer position with the intent that the individual would assume Mr. Magnant's position and duties.

The position information is at <http://das.hre.iowa.gov/iowa.jobs.promo.html> (search under 588-Public Health) until October 5. We encourage you to pass the information to any qualified candidate as soon as possible.

## Continuing Education Courses – October-December 2010

Sponsor	Dates	Location	Contact	Address and Telephone	Credit
Iowa Parks & Recreation Association	October 18 November 15	Cedar Rapids Burlington	Cathy Shutts	1534 Penrose St Grinnell, IA 50112 (641)236-3917 E-mail: cshutts@pcpartner.net	2.5 hours
SLC Pool Consultants	None scheduled		Steve Craig	Swimming Pool Supply 5292 NW 111th Drive Grimes, IA 50111 (515)986-3931 E-mail: steve@spspools-spas.com	2.0 hours
Certified Pool Trainers of Iowa & Minnesota	October 1	Okoboji	John Szymanski	65910-267 <sup>th</sup> Street Alden MN 56009-4211 (800)253-7235	4.0 hr
ACCO Unlimited Corporation	None scheduled		Jessica Pollard	5300 NW 55 <sup>th</sup> Ave Johnston IA 50131 (515)278-0487 E-mail: jpollard@accounlimited.com	3 x 2.0 hours

Remember that Certified Pool Operators<sup>®</sup> in Iowa must obtain 10 hours of continuing education in the five years between renewals of the CPO<sup>®</sup> certificate. The individual CPO<sup>®</sup> must maintain a record of the continuing education. The record must be available to the inspection agency at each facility for which the CPO<sup>®</sup> is responsible.

Check with the sponsoring organization for the subject matter at these courses and for courses scheduled later.