

## MEMORANDUM

**To: All Owners/Operators of Recreational Water Facilities in the area served by Peterborough Public Health**

**From: Environmental Health, Peterborough Public Health**

**Date: May 22, 2022**

**Subject: Power Outage Guidance and Precautions**

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The City of Peterborough and surrounding areas were hit hard by the deadly storm that crossed Ontario yesterday. We are aware of widespread power outages that may last for several days. Power outages come with significant concerns and considerations for recreational water safety. Please help us protect our community and prevent illness and injury from recreational water facilities.

If your premise does not have power, **the recreational water facility must be closed** and inaccessible to the public. Without power, public recreational water facilities cannot be safely operated due to:

- Inadequate water treatment
- Inadequate water circulation
- Risk of increased turbidity and poor water clarity
- Possibility of no emergency telephone

If your premise has power, but has other outages such as telephone lines or internet, this may impact the availability of an emergency telephone. If you do not have a functioning emergency telephone, **the recreational water facility must be closed** and inaccessible to the public. Be advised that a *cell phone is not a suitable replacement* for an emergency telephone.

Portable generators should only be used outdoors, in a well-ventilated area away from windows and fresh air intakes. Do not connect a generator to your electrical panel for pool operation unless this has been previously setup by a qualified electrician.

Once the power is restored, take the following precautions before reopening the recreational water facility to the public:

- Ensure all pool equipment is functioning correctly including pumps, filters and treatment devices.
- All lighting in the vicinity of the facility, where applicable, must be working.
- Conduct surveillance around the facility and enclosure to ensure that there are no damages or physical safety hazards.
- Confirm that all safety equipment and required signage is present and in good condition (i.e. not missing or damaged due to the storm).
- Complete water chemistry checks for all required parameters; ensure that all parameters are within the appropriate range before reopening the pool.
- Ensure that any automated control systems are working correctly and appropriately calibrated; contact your trained operator and/or another qualified professional for assistance.
- Continue with water chemistry checks and records as required.

- Document the power outage situation in the incident log book. Include all pertinent dates and times, as well as the date/time that the pool reopened.

We trust that you will follow your own emergency response plans for a power outage and take all precautions necessary to protect the public. Recreational water facilities can be dangerous and lead to serious injury, illness and even death when they are not operated safely. If you have any questions or concerns related to safe operation, please contact our office at (705) 743-1000. There is an inspector on call 24/7 who can support you. If you call outside of regular business hours, follow the instructions on the recording to reach the afterhours Public Health Inspector.

Thank you so much for your diligence in this most recent emergency situation.

**Environmental Health Team – Safe Water**



Jackson Square, 185 King St., Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8

P: 705-743-1000 | F: 705-743-1203

E: [environmentalhealth@peterboroughpublichealth.ca](mailto:environmentalhealth@peterboroughpublichealth.ca)

[www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca)