



Pool and Spa Chlorinator Safety Accident Prevention Alert

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to helping workers avoid fatal and life-changing injuries by alerting their instincts so they always pause and "think safety" before moving forward.

Eastern Alliance is here to help. To learn more about Eastern's N3L3 program and access other safety resources, sign in and visit the Safety Tools on www.easternalliance.com, or contact your Risk Management Consultant for assistance

1.855.533.3444

A serious injury occurred when an employee was attempting to unclog a pool and spa chlorination system; the clog was caused by an undissolved calcium-hypochlorite puck. The employee's face was over the top of the puck sleeve when the pressure was relieved. As he was watching the system clear, a spout of water struck the employee in the face and neck causing first and second degree chemical burns, despite quick intervention with emergency eyewash. Safety glasses were worn at the time, but no other PPE was donned.

LESSONS LEARNED:

The employer lacked controls for proper employee training, preventative maintenance practice, vendor controls for regular reviews of the system, and when a third-party should be called rather than relying on internal maintenance personnel.

Lockout/Tagout practices were not completed. The employer lacked proper equipment specific to lockout/tagout practices to ensure that employees were not performing duties on a live system.



Corrective Actions:

- Ensure that proper contractor maintenance programs are in place to service equipment when the work is beyond the internal knowledge base as a method of risk avoidance.
- Develop and follow proper written lockout/tagout procedures to ensure there is no stored pressure/energy on the system before service commences.
- Ensure that employees are fully trained in hazard communication and have reviewed the safety data sheets for appropriate safety practices.
- Ensure that all appropriate PPE is in place such as safety glasses, face shield, chemical resistant gloves, chemical apron, long sleeve shirt, long pants and closed toed shoes.
- Ensure that preventative maintenance by a third-party is sufficient in capturing all elements of the system where a future failure might occur.
- Ensure that emergency eye wash and body showers are readily available in the immediate area where chemical systems are used. Eyewashes and showers must be capable of at least 15 minutes of continuous flow of tepid water.
- Evaluation of alternative methods of sanitization and or supplier of the pucks from salt systems to purchasing a high grade of puck that dissolves more fully in water.

Best Practices to Follow:

AVOIDANCE of high hazard activities

SUBSTITUTE products and practices for less hazardous options

ENGINEER out high risk activities and products

AVOID work practices where high risk for injury might occur

PPE is last resort