

## **Hurricane Prep Tips for Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Companies**

*Prepared by the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance Certified Pool & Spa Operator (CPO) Advisory Council*

1. Keep a close eye on the storm's projected path. As the storm approaches, the weather declines very quickly. Preparations ahead of time keep you safe and the site secured. Keep in mind that storm paths change quickly. Planning ahead of time is key.
2. Ensure you have enough chemicals to restart the pool once the storm has passed and all chemicals are stored correctly and off the floor. You are encouraged to bag all dry chemicals separately in plastic bags to avoid water intrusion.
3. Lock down the pool area to patrons and prepare the site.
4. Look around for anything that is not secure. Pool life rings and shepherd hooks are a few examples of things that must be taken down and stored in the pool pump room or an alternative location.
5. Throwing the pool furniture in the water is tempting. The largest drawback is the potential damage to the tile and pool finish; also, your furniture hardware will potentially be damaged. One consideration is to store the furniture in the pump room or alternative location. Another consideration if that is not an option is to stack up the furniture and use aviation cables and a lock to secure to your perimeter fencing as a last resort.
6. Do not fully drain the pool. It is recommended to lower the pool a few inches to avoid an overflow situation. Every pool is different. If you know the pool when approaching overflow causes the pump room to flood, consider lowering the pool a few extra inches. For example, if the anticipated rain is 8 inches, you only need to lower the pool water level 8-12 inches. Never fully drain the pool.
7. Power down all pool equipment. This can either be done now or once you determine the storm is imminent. By shutting down all the equipment at the breaker, in the event of a power failure or power surge, issues can all be avoided. Also, if you shut down the equipment ahead of time, any submerged equipment will not be energized when flooding may occur as the storm passes through. Don't forget your pool heaters—shut them down and turn off the gas.
8. If your equipment is subject to being flooded, you can attempt to wrap the pumps to prevent water intrusion or use sandbags. Sub-pumps only work if you have power.
9. Once all the equipment is off and all items are secured, post "pool closed" signs and ensure all entry points are locked.
10. Once the storm has passed and officials have given the all-clear, consider hiring a professional if you discover any signs of flooding or electrical systems failures. Do not attempt to restart equipment unless it's dry, safe, and no dangers are present.