

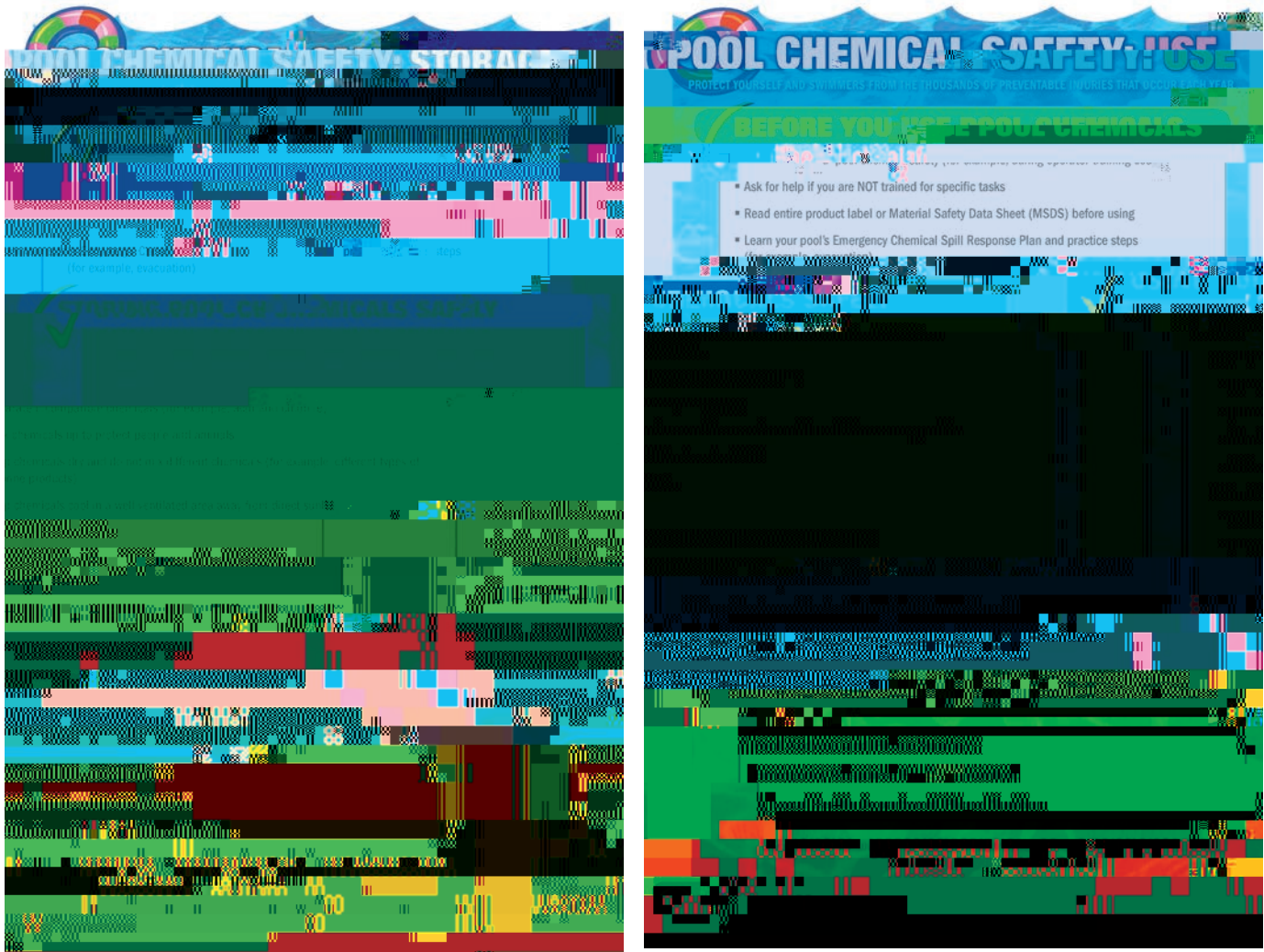
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Preventing Pool Chemical Injuries
Fortunately, pool chemical injuries are preventable.

FIGURE 1

Free Laminated Pool Chemical Safety Poster Available in English and Spanish



To order, visit www.cdc.gov/pubs/cdcInfoOnDemand.aspx?ProgramID=93.

and enforcement. To minimize the risk of these injuries, pool chemical safety training (Figure 1) should be included in operator training and provided to any aquatics staff involved in storing or handling pool chemicals. Additionally, preventing unauthorized access to chemical storage spaces, exhausting air from these spaces at rates that help protect occupant health and safety, and providing eyewash stations in these spaces can minimize the risk of pool chemical injuries or at least their severity. To specifically minimize risk of toxic chlorine gas events, the chemical (chlorine and acid) feed should be deac-

tivated if there is no or low water flow in the recirculation system.

These examples of preventive education and engineering measures are recommended in the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC, www.cdc.gov/mahc). The MAHC's overarching objective is to prevent illness and injuries associated with public treated recreational water venues (i.e., pools, hot tubs/spas, and water playgrounds), which it does through providing recommendations based on the latest science or best practices. State and local jurisdictions, depending on their individual needs, can voluntarily adopt all or part of the

MAHC. Because the MAHC provides prevention recommendations in its chapters on design and construction, operation and maintenance, and policy and management, recommendations to prevent specific illness or injury can appear in multiple MAHC chapters.

State and local environmental health colleagues have reported that it can be difficult to find all the relevant MAHC code and supporting annex rationale language. In response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is developing Mini-MAHCs. Mini-MAHCs are concise documents that aggregate MAHC code and annex language

on a specific public health issue. One Mini-
MAHC