



# IPSSA Texas News



Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2011

Newsletter available on-line subscribe at [www.ipssatexas.com](http://www.ipssatexas.com)

## HOUSTON CHAPTER HELPS MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

Army specialist Pedro Antonio Maldonado was killed by a grenade in Afghanistan on April 29th 2010. He had a dream.

His father had lost a leg years ago in a farming accident and was getting by on a makeshift leg made of a fiber-glass stick (from a weed eater), a plastic coke bottle for a socket, wire, epoxy and duct tape. Pedro's dream was to get his father a proper prosthetic leg. After hearing

this story on the Houston news Scott Waldo of Platinum Pools contacted Doug Dinkins, Houston IPSSA chapter treasurer, to see if something could be done to make this dream come true. After researching the situation, Doug, Jim Jacobsmeyer, Houston chapter president, and Phil Sharp, IPSSA Region 9 direc-



Pedro Antonio Maldonado

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## Fort Worth

### Electric License Practice Question Class

I hope the last RAIL study group meeting was informative and helped everyone. Lets be the first chapter in IPPSA Texas to have our entire membership pass the test!

Also thank you to those that signed up to volunteer for the Southwest Pool and Spa show. Those of you who didn't get with me at the meeting or those who missed the meeting, please call me ASAP to let me know which days and time you can volunteer (817-991-0555). We need to have a good showing and help out all of the vendors load and unload, also some other light jobs. If you don't want to help out, hopefully we will see you at the show anyway. I hope everyone stays warm and healthy this winter season.

See you at the next meeting.

*Tina Lehmann*

*Fort Worth Chapter Treasurer*

### Electric License Practice Questions

1. Ampacity is defined as:
  - A. The electromotive force required to cause electrons to flow in conductors
  - B. The amount of power in a circuit

Continued on page 6



AUSTIN MEMBER MEETING

Austin Energy Building  
721 Barton Spring Rd.# TLC130  
Austin, TX 78704

First Tuesday of the month 6:00pm

[Jim Smith](#) President 512-206-0606  
[Hal Denbar](#) Vice President 512-636-8122  
[Todd Swearingen](#) Secretary 512-326-4695  
[Rick Beaubouef](#) Treasurer 512-466-9672

CORPUS CHRISTI MEMBER MEETING

Island Italian Restaurant  
North Padre Island

Third Tuesday of the month 6:30pm

[Mike Baker](#) President 361-563-7665  
Allen Arron Vice President 361-658-7665  
[Doug Goike](#) Secretary 361-749-4853  
[Brian Doggett](#) Treasurer 361-949-8899

DALLAS MEMBER MEETING

SCP-Plano Training Center,  
1212 10th Street  
Plano, TX

Third Thursday of the month 5:30pm

[Eustaquio Portillo](#) President 972-278-3917  
[Bill Winter](#) Vice President 972-523-0537  
[Sean Ralls](#) Secretary 972-849-0746  
[Lorna MacDougall](#) Treasurer 972-222-4105

FORT WORTH MEMBER MEETING

La Playa Maya Restaurant  
1540 N. Main Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76106

Third Tuesday of the month 6:30pm

[Jason S. Lehmann](#)- President 817-605-0194  
[Greg Clark](#) Vice President 817-453-1302  
[Ken Hamilton](#) Secretary 817-268-8438  
[Tina Lehmann](#) Treasurer 817-991-0555

HOUSTON MEMBER MEETING

Fuddruckers  
2475 Kirkwood  
Houston, TX

Second Tuesday of the month  
7:00pm  
Board Meeting preceding

[Jim Jacobsmyer](#) President 281-474-7665  
[David Queen](#) Vice President 281-807-5442  
[Sterling Jones](#) Secretary 281-256-6630  
[Doug Dinkins](#) Treasurer 281-531-8757

MID CITIES MEMBER MEETING

SCP Carrollton  
2107 Hutton Dr.,  
Carrollton, TX 75006

First Monday of the month 7:00pm

[Jeremy Smith](#) President 214-695-8717  
[Henry Shackley](#) Vice President 972-445-0526  
[Kraig Williams](#) Secretary 972-800-2123  
[Sterling Kropp](#) Treasurer 972-436-0360

RIO GRANDE MEMBER MEETING

SCP McAllen  
1201 W. Warren Street  
Rio Grande Valley

Second Tuesday of the month  
6:30pm

Humberto Garces President 956-867-7194  
Ron Long Vice President 830-246-2788  
[Johnny Schultz](#) Treasurer 830-253-1222

SAN ANTONIO MEETING

Clear Springs Restaurant  
606 Afton Oaks  
San Antonio, TX

First Monday of the month  
Officers Meeting @ 6:00 pm  
Chapter Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
Attendance is taken @ 7:00 pm

[Flash Rose](#) President 210-494-9784  
[Randy Keefe](#) Vice President 210-519-7901  
[Becky Clayton](#) Secretary 210-240-3121  
[Frank Berlanga](#) Treasurer 210-732-7817

WAXAHACHIE MEMBER MEETING

SCP Grand Prairie  
1909 Great Southwest Pkwy  
Waxahachie, TX









First Wednesday of the month  
7:00am

[Neal Holt](#) President 972-617-9877  
[Larry Hutson](#) Vice President 972-617-7999  
[Bob Bauer](#) Treasurer/Secretary 214-577-4843



# February 2011

\* contact Phil Sharp for details

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Member Meeting Austin	2 Member Meeting Waxahachie	3	4	5
6	7 Member & Officer Meeting San Antonio Mid Cities	8 Member Meetings Houston Rio Grande	9	10 *IPSSA annual leadership weekend Newport Beach CA	11 *IPSSA annual leadership weekend Newport Beach CA	12 *IPSSA annual leadership weekend Newport Beach CA
13 *IPSSA annual leadership weekend Newport Beach CA	14  Education & Certification programs and Workshops -  Valentines Day 	15 Member Meetings Corpus Christi Fort Worth  Education & Certification programs and Workshops -	16  Education & Certification programs and Workshops -	17 Member Meeting Dallas  Education & Certification programs and Workshops -	18 Exhibit Hall Open 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  Education & Certification programs and Workshops  Region 9 Meeting 6:pm	19 Exhibit Hall Open 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm 
20	21 *Phil & Susan's Anniversary 	22	23	24	25	26 *FOE 70 Wild & tame game dinner
27	28					

## 2011 Dallas Chapter Meetings

We have now finalized the monthly Chapter meetings for the first 6 months of 2011.

**February - SW Pool & Spa Show Feb. 14, 2011 thru Feb. 19, 2011 (Sign in sheet will be at the IPSSA booth)**

**March 17, 2011**

**April 28, 2011**

**May 26, 2011**

**June 23, 2011**

The meetings are at the EDGE-SCP Training Center in Plano. The meet and greet starts at 5:30PM with dinner and the official meeting starts at 6:30PM. If you are not able to attend, please call one of the chapter officers to let us know. See you there!



*Lorna MacDougall  
Dallas Chapter Treasurer*

## REGION 9 NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Region 9 Meeting

Friday February 18, 2011 -  
6:00pm  
Southwest Pool & Spa Show  
Arlington Convention Center  
1200 Ballpark Way  
Arlington TX 76112

#### Region 9 Executive Board

Director - [Phil Sharp](#)  
210-673-2909  
Treasurer - [Jason S. Lehmann](#)  
817-605-0194  
Secretary - [Gordon F. Slagle](#)  
817-595-1167

#### Board Officers

Austin - [Jim Smith](#)  
512-206-0606  
Corpus Christi - [Mike Baker](#)  
361-563-7665  
Dallas - [Eustaquio Portillo](#)  
972-278-3917  
Fort Worth - [Jason S. Lehmann](#)  
817-605-0194  
Houston - [Jim Jacobsmyer](#)  
281-474-7665  
Mid Cities DFW - [Jeremy Smith](#)  
214-695-8717  
Rio Grande - Humberto Garces  
956-867-7194  
San Antonio - [Flash Rose](#)  
210-494-9784  
Waxahachie - [Neal Holt](#)  
214-837-5884

see more | learn more | earn more

**Southwest Pool & Spa Show**

The **ONLY** Industry Expo  
Serving the Gulf and  
Southwestern States.

**Featuring:**

- Over 100 booths with the latest products, services, tools and techniques to grow your business
- Beginner and Advanced Technical and Business Seminars
- APSP Education
- IPSSA Education
- Advanced Builders Education
- CPD Kiosk Course
- Texas Residential Appliance Installers Exam Prep Course
- APSP Region 3 Design Awards
- IPSSA Regional Industry Awards
- IAPMO Water Electrical Workshop
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) "Water Safety" Training

**CONFERENCE:**  
February 15-19, 2011  
**EXHIBITS:**  
February 18-19, 2011

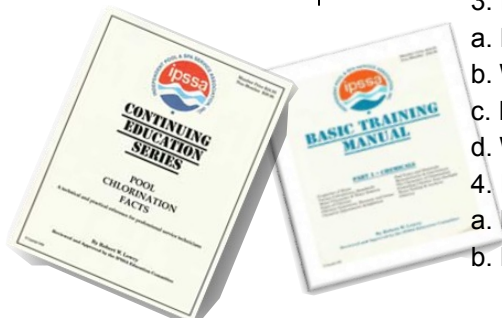
**ARLINGTON CONVENTION CENTER**  
Arlington, Texas

Stay Connected  
www.swpoolandspashow.com

### ORDER YOU IPSSA TRAINING MANUALS

YOU CAN ORDER THESE TRAINING MANUALS ONLINE AT [WWW.IPSSA.COM](http://WWW.IPSSA.COM) OR CONTACT YOUR NEAREST CHAPTER

1. IPSSA Basic Training Manual – Part 1 Chemicals
  - a. Member price is \$ 24.95
  - b. Workbook price is \$6.95
  - c. Non-member price is \$49.95
  - d. Workbook price is \$12.95
2. IPSSA Basic Training Manual – Part 2 Equipment
  - a. Member price is \$ 24.95
  - b. Workbook price is \$6.95
  - c. Non-member price is \$39.95
  - d. Workbook price is \$12.95
3. IPSSA Intermediate Training Manual – Part 1 Chemicals
  - a. Member price is \$ 24.95
  - b. Workbook price is \$6.95
  - c. Non-member price is \$49.95
  - d. Workbook price is \$12.95
4. IPSSA Continuing Education Series – Pool Chlorination Facts
  - a. Member price is \$ 24.95
  - b. Non-member price is \$ 29.95





IPSSA members from all Texas chapters will volunteer for the upcoming Southwest Pool & Spa Show. We hope to have a good showing.

IPSSA members will have to check in at the IPSSA booth or with Lance and Ingrid at the loading dock to be counted.

Register NOW [www.swpoolandspashow.com](http://www.swpoolandspashow.com)

## Online Testing

The IPSSA Water Chemistry Certification Exam is based on IPSSA's Basic Training Manual-Part 1. We have training manuals and workbooks available so you can get yourself prepared.

Contact us at [info@ipssafortworth.com](mailto:info@ipssafortworth.com)



The exam is offered on-line at no cost.

To take the exam on-line, write to [exam@ipssa.com](mailto:exam@ipssa.com) or call 888-360-9505 to obtain a log-in ID and password. When requesting a log-in ID and password, we will need your full name, company name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the name of the chapter you wish to join.

You will receive your log-in ID and password no later than the next business day.

The IPSSA Water Chemistry Certification Exam contains 50 questions.

You may refer to your copy of the IPSSA Basic Training Manual-Part 1 when taking the exam, but you only have 60 minutes in which to complete it.

During the 60 minutes you can go back and change answers. You will not be able to answer any questions after your 60 minutes expire.

You must get 90% or more of the questions right in order to pass. After you have completed the exam on-line, you will be notified of the results immediately.

There are a limited number of times you can take the exam with the same log-in ID and password

## HOUSTON CHAPTER HELPS MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

Continued from page 1

tor and IPSSA president, started the ball rolling. Donations started coming in from IPSSA chapters and members. Ted Muilenburg with M.P.I., Muilenburg Prosthetics Inc., offered a substantial discount on the price of the new leg. At the Houston chapter meeting on January 11, 2011, Pedro's father, mother and sister were honored and informed that the new leg had been paid for and was forthcoming. **January 11th would have been Pedro's 21st birthday!**

*Splash*

*Region 9 Secretary*



Phil Sharp, Rita Jacobsmeyer, Ted Muilenburg, Pedro's mother, father and sister, Doug Dinkins and Scott Waldo

## SICK ROUTE CARDS

Per our standing rules, each regular member must complete and submit a Blue Sick Route card to the Sick Route Chair Person in February and August each year. The Dallas Chapter will be sending out these cards to its members along with a return envelope for you to complete and mail back by the end of February. FYI-Each regular member must provide to the Sick Route Chair Person an accurate phone number where they can be reached and must notify the Sick Route Chair Person if they are going on vacation or will be otherwise unavailable. Failure in this regard shall result in suspension or expulsion of membership per IPSSA Inc. by-laws, Section 4.7 of Article IV. Remember, February only has 28 days!

*Lorna MacDougall*

*Dallas Chapter Treasurer*

## Electric License Practice Questions

Continued from page 1

- C. The current, in amperes, that a conductor can carry continuously under the conditions of use without exceeding its temperature rating
- D. The voltage rating of any appliance
2. Approved as used in the NEC means:
  - A. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction
  - B. Acceptable only when specified in local ordinances
  - C. Okay for use in hazardous locations
  - D. Usable only for inside work
3. Which of the following anchors may not be used to secure electrical equipment to masonry walls?
  - A. Lead anchors approved for the weight of the equipment
  - B. Toggle bolts
  - C. Threaded bolts "shot" into the masonry
  - D. Wooden plugs driven into holes in the masonry for holding wood screws
4. Parts of electric equipment which in ordinary operation produce arce, sparks, flames or molten metal shall be enclosed or separated and isolated from:
  - A. All other electrical equipment
  - B. All combustible equipment
  - C. Electric lighting
  - D. All working spaces
5. Working space in rooms containing electrical equipment shall not be used for:
  - A. Storage
  - B. Maintenance & repair of equipment
  - C. Testing purposes
  - D. Inspection or servicing
6. In all cases where there are live parts normally exposed on the front of switchboards or motor control centers, the working space in front of such equipment shall be not less than:
  - A. 1 foot
  - B. 3 feet
  - C. 4 feet unless adequate protection is provided
  - D. 18 inches

## Greetings to all my fellow Pool Friends and Compadres

The Dallas chapter provided pizza and drinks. Bill asked the members what they wanted out of their chapter meetings this year. The consensus was hands on education.

So we will be teaching how to break down a pump to filters and so on. We have all kinds of experts in our chapter and these experts will be helping us teach these classes.

I talked about the show and recruited volunteers to help set up on Thursday and break it down on Saturday.

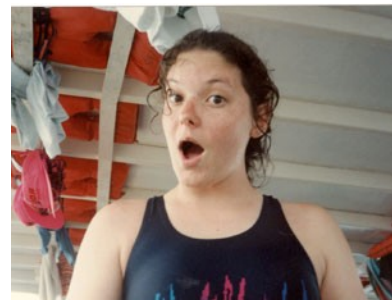
We also had 3 visitors interested in joining our chapter. Overall I think we had a good meeting. See you at the show.

Peace out.

*Eustaquio Portillo  
Dallas Chapter  
Presidente Elect*

## Fort Worth Member passes Test

Tina Lehmann becomes the first female IPSSA member to obtain a residential appliance installer license in January.



**Congratulations Tina!**

Forms for licenses and other useful links are available at [www.ipssatexas.com](http://www.ipssatexas.com) in the member area. I have linked these files for your convenience, click on links below.

[Residential Appliance Installer License Application](#)

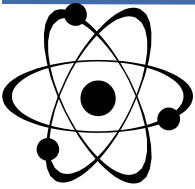
[Residential Appliance Installation Contractor License Application](#)

## JANUARY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B - 10 ppm
2. B - False
3. A - True
4. A - True

[Click here for last month issue](#)





By Eric Herman

Nitrate spread over crops, yards and anything else that grows is a life-giving

compound: It is the primary component in most fertilizers and is essential to the development of all vegetation. Every time you see lush green, you are looking at nitrate's effects.

In a swimming pool, however, things that grow and turn green are unwelcomed — and nitrate is the kiss of death. Nothing will engender blossoming algae and other waterborne plants in a pool or spa more effectively than nitrate. Despite nitrate's critical role in the development of algae-related headaches, the pool and spa industry has yet to deal with nitrate as a specific issue. There are no seminars devoted to nitrate; there is virtually no literature on the subject; and many service technicians say they never consider nitrate when addressing a problem pool. Most significant, there are as yet no products on the market that are designed to remove nitrate from water.

#### **Stable to a fault**

Perhaps the main reason that nitrate is virtually ignored stems from the unfortunate fact that there is absolutely no way to oxidize it. Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) consists of a single nitrogen atom attached to three oxygen atoms; it is extremely stable and will stay in solution very comfortably. Because nitrate is in a sense immune to oxidation, the only known way to remove it is through draining or dilution.

Service techs who are aware of nitrate's effects and have tested for it in problem pools will attest that it will turn even the best-kept pool or spa into a greenish mess. "If you get nitrate in the water, you've got a problem," says George Warren, owner of George's Pool Service in Miami, Fla. "When you have a pool that keeps turning

## **Pool water — or fertile stew?**

green no matter what you do — it's probably nitrate." Nitrate is found in the air, on the ground and in groundwater. It occurs in nature as animal waste and through the ionization of oxygen and nitrogen atoms in the atmosphere during thunderstorms.

The main source, however, is man, mostly through use of fertilizer in agricultural operations as well as through septic tank leaching. Because of its direct relationship to animals and farms, nitrate contamination of groundwater is particularly pronounced in rural areas.

Another nitrogen compound, nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>), is also found throughout nature and, like nitrate, is an effective form of plant food. When introduced into a chlorinated environment such as a pool or spa, however, nitrite quickly gains a third oxygen atom and becomes nitrate.

#### **Tracking the problem**

Despite nitrate's relative obscurity in the pool and spa lexicon, there are a few people in this industry who have studied it. The man generally credited with first examining the relationship between nitrate and pool water is industry veteran John Girvan, president of the John Girvan Co., a manufacturer of pool chemicals in Jacksonville, Fla. In 1965, Girvan set out to learn why some pools that were otherwise in perfect condition were turning green and using inordinate amounts of chlorine. After examining water from literally thousands of pools in his laboratory, Girvan discovered that nearly all of them had one thing in common — the presence of nitrate.

"We wanted to find what it was that we couldn't see, taste or smell that was turning these pools green," he says.

"Through a process of elimination we found nitrate. Nitrate will feed algae faster than any legal sanitizing system can kill it.

"With nitrate in the pool," he says, "you will get algae and other contaminants that won't respond to normal treatment."

Through the years of field and lab work that followed Girvan's initial findings, he discovered that nitrate finds its way into pool water by five basic avenues:

Fertilizer - far and away the most common nitrate source. "We have actually had tests run where a pool that showed a zero-parts-per-million nitrate level the day before fertilizer was added to a nearby lawn or garden

### **"What were they Thinking?"**

We have all run into those situations that are just so outrageous, funny or just plain stupid that they warrant a photo - doesn't just have to do with all the "creative" plumbing or equipment layouts we have seen. If you have a contribution of interest just let Ingrid know at:

[ipahl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ipahl@sbcglobal.net)

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## Dallas City Code

Contractors must now be registered with the City.

On January 12, 2011, the City of Dallas amended Chapter 52, "Administrative Procedures for the Construction Codes," of the Dallas City Code to require the following contractors to be registered with the City of Dallas Building Inspection: commercial general contractors, residential general contractor, concrete/asphalt/paving contractor, demolition contractor, fence contractor, foundation contractor, gas well contractor, landscape contractor, pool contractor, roof contractor and tree service contractor. Also defined as contractors are energy code, gas well and green building providers. These are providers that are engaged in the business of reviewing plans or making inspections for verification of compliance with the respective Dallas Code and reporting such compliance to the building official.

A contractor listed who is not registered by the city as a contractor may not obtain any permit required for work performed by contractor. The registration fee will be \$120 per year. For more information contact 214- 948-4320.

*Contributed by Lance Rust  
Fort Worth Chapter Member*



## Mid Cities Meeting

The February chapter meeting will be held at Jetline on February 7th at 6:30pm.

KBYG at the Southwest Pool & Spa Show

Kristen Beckworth will be present at our Region 9 meeting in February. Learn how to present a Know Before You Go Safety Program in your community. Each chapter should have a safety chairman in attendance.

*Thanks,  
Jeremy Smith  
Mid Cities Chapter President*

## Residential Appliance Installer

### (Test Prep Class)

### Austin Chapter

**\*MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND  
SPACE IS LIMITED**

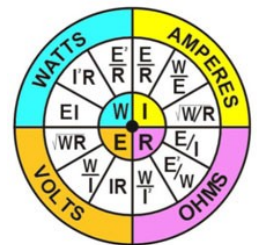
February 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 (8:00am – 5:00pm)

LA Quinta Inn – 183A & 1431 Cedar Park

**\*Must have your own 2008 NEC code book (soft bound)**

**\*ALSO recommend having the following:**

**TEXAS ELECTRICIANS practical  
exams & study book (by Ray  
Holder)**



Instructor:

Donny Greenway CPOI

Licensed RAI # 215828

To Register Contact: Total Pool and Spa Inc.

512-260-7854 OR

[donnygreenway@yahoo.com](mailto:donnygreenway@yahoo.com) no credit cards at the door

Cost: \$200.00 (\$150.00 for IPSSA MEMBERS)

NOTE:

THIS CLASS IS INTENDED TO TEACH YOU HOW TO NAVIGATE THE CODE BOOK

\*\*Please do not put tabs on your book prior to class





## APEC moving Forward

[www.apectexas.org](http://www.apectexas.org)

APEC is proud to announce it's new website and e-newsletter. There are now four ways to communicate, subscribe to the latest News Blog, subscribe to the E - Newsletter, join the social network on Facebook or follow on twitter. Stay up to speed with licensure and code changes, get involved. Do you know your local representative?

## APEC Service Company and Builders Breakfast

Meet our lobbyists and join in a roundtable discussion at the Southwest Pool & Spa Show.

Saturday February 19th

Service professionals 8:00am - 9:30am

Builder professionals 9:45am - 10:45am

Register NOW [www.swpoolandspashow.com](http://www.swpoolandspashow.com)

## Corpus Christi Meeting

We held our monthly meeting at Island Italia Restaurant. Not much to report other than we again pushed for everyone to get their Appliance License & offered help to anyone who needed it to help them pass the test. Of course we talked about the upcoming Region 9 meeting & SWPSS in Arlington.

## Welcome New Member

Also, I would like to introduce you to Amy Wright of "Done Wright Pool & Spa Services" a new member of our Corpus Christi chapter, she has agreed to be our newsletter contact for our chapter.

*Thank you  
Doug Goike  
Corpus Christi Secretary*

## NDPA is Looking for the Best-of-the-Best Nominations being accepted for NDPA's 2011 Community Lifesaver Awards



**Deadline for Nominations is February 11, 2011**

### Greetings!

Each year the NDPA recognizes individuals and organizations who are making an impact in community or regional efforts in drowning prevention.

This is your opportunity to nominate your mentors, colleagues, or even yourself for an NDPA 2011 Community Lifesaver Award. Selected recipients will be honored in person at the NDPA's 10th Anniversary National Drowning Prevention Symposium, April 14-15, 2011 in Colorado Springs, CO.

A PFD version of the application is posted below, and an interactive Word version is posted on the NDPA website at [www.NDPA.org](http://www.NDPA.org). If you have questions, please contact the NDPA Executive Director at (951) 712-2009 or via email at [Admin@NDPA.org](mailto:Admin@NDPA.org).

Sincerely, Kristin Goffman  
<mailto:kristin.goffman@roadrunner.com>  
NDPA Executive Director

**Community Lifesaver Award Nomination Form**  
[2011 NDPA Community Lifesaver Award Application](#)



Continued from page 8

## Pool water — or fertile stew?

will pick up 10 to 30 ppm nitrate after a single dusting of dry fertilizer," Girvan explains.

Because nitrate will drive sanitizer consumption through the roof (see the chart) and the only way to remove it is by draining; asking gardeners and landscape contractors to be careful when fertilizing can be a cost-saving move.

**Birds** - the second leading nitrate source. According to Girvan, Florida's screened pools ironically are at greatest risk because of birds' preference for sitting atop the permeable structures. With even a modest flock perched above the pool, a substantial quantity of nitrate-rich feces can be easily dispensed onto the screen; when rain rinses the material into the pool, nitrate levels can jump to between 10 and 20 ppm.

Large, overhanging trees at pool-side can also contribute to the same bird-generated greening affect. "Some people put up fake owls to scare away the birds," Girvan says.

**Human wastes.** Urine and particles of feces can add double-digit nitrate levels depending on the bather load and how careful those bathers are about tending to nature's call before they enter the pool.

Spas are particularly susceptible to the effect of bather load because of the added problem of sweat and body oils.

Problems stemming from nitrate contamination is one more reason to be sure to drain spas on regular basis.

**Thunderstorms.** Because lightning ionizes nitrogen and oxygen in the air, subsequent rain can actually boost the nitrate levels as much as 5 to 10 ppm.

This isn't the most common source of nitrate contamination, but Girvan notes that it's enough to create green water in what should be a healthy, nitrate-free pool.

**Tap water.** This is the least likely but most troubling means of introducing nitrates into the pool. When this happens, you've got a real problem because draining and refilling will only add more nitrates.

More important however, when nitrates are in the household's water supply, it means that people are drinking it and that represents a serious public health problem.

### Testing the waters

Even though your only remedy for nitrate in the pool is either dilution through partial replacement or elimination through complete draining of the water, knowing that the contaminant is actually there is the first step in the battle. Tests for nitrate are available, but they are relatively difficult to use — and they take time. Tom Metzbower, director of sales and marketing with Taylor Technologies, a manufac-

turer of water-testing kits based in Sparks, Md., notes that using his company's nitrate test is not likely to become part of the service technician's routine.

"If at all," he says, "you are going to use this on a troubleshooting call. If you are someone who is on a service route, obviously you are concerned with time so this is not going to be part of your regular service, even with the zinc reduction test that we've developed, it takes a few minutes to develop a color for comparison."

Whether or not a removal system for nitrate will ever be available to the pool and spa service industry — and to the rest of the world for that matter remains to be seen. In the meantime, technicians should be aware that fertilizer, birds and careless bathers can add nitrate to the water. If you have a problem you can't pinpoint using your usual diagnostic skills and equipment, it maybe be time to test the water for nitrate content. If the results come back positive, be prepared for an uphill battle.

### Nasty numbers

The presence of nitrate in pool water will drastically increase your sanitizer consumption - but just how much? The following chart is based on data provided by John Girvan, president of The John Girvan Company in Jacksonville, Fla. The levels are approximations only and serve solely to illustrate the potential effects of nitrate.

Nitrate Concentration (ppm)	Added Sanitizer Consumption %
10	0
20	25
30*	50
50	100
75	200
100	"out of control"

\* Girvan notes that between 30 and 50 ppm, algae can be controlled with the use of an algacide and additional sanitizer. This, however, is not recommended. Instead, he prefers either partial or total replacement of the water.



IPSSA Texas Region 9  
7186 Baker Blvd.  
Richland Hills, TX 76118

Subscribe to our newsletter go to  
[www.ipssatexas.com](http://www.ipssatexas.com)

For information please contact

[Ingrid Slagle](#)

IPSSA Texas Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

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## POOL QUIZ

1. It is recommended that you use cyanuric acid if you use which type of chlorine?

- a) Gas
- b) Liquid
- c) Cal hypo
- d) All of the above

2. The effectiveness or killing power of chlorine is controlled most by:

- a) Total alkalinity
- b) Total dissolved solids
- c) Hardness
- d) -Ph

3. Ozone is a stronger oxidizer than which of the following?

- a) Chlorine
- b) Bromine
- c) Both A and B
- d) None of the above

4. The use of a chlorine generator forces you to rethink the entire concept of which of the following?

- a) pH
- b) Sanitizer
- c) Total dissolved solids
- d) All of the above

5. Cyanuric acid has many known health hazards.

- a) True
- b) False



Find answers in the next issue

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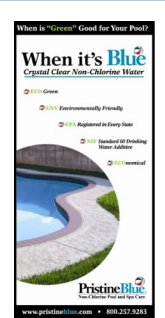

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