



## **Keys to a Successful Aquatic Facility Start-Up**

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Aquatic facility start-up is no easy task. And for most aquatic facilities that did not open in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions, it has been 20+ months since your equipment was last operated. For this reason, troubleshooting mechanical issues this year may be more difficult than in seasons past.

With IRMA's ongoing partnership with the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA), IRMA members were invited to join an exclusive webinar this past February to discuss potential property and equipment risks of aquatic facility equipment start-up. This webinar, "Preparing Your Aquatic Water Features and Mechanical Systems," presented by Tim Auerhahn with the Aquatic Council, provided attendees with a 10-week, step-by-step preseason start-up checklist, including recommendations on topics such as potential mechanical issues, supply chain delays, hiring, documentation, and much more. That full checklist can be found [here](#).

**Ten Weeks Out – "Early Season Considerations"**

**Nine Weeks Out – "Get Things Done Indoors"**

**Eight Weeks Out – "Wrap Up Indoor Work"**

**Seven Weeks Out – "Heading Outdoors"**

**Six Weeks Out – "Drain and Clean"**

**Five Weeks Out – "Before You Fill"**

**Four Weeks Out – "Starting the Pool"**

**Three Weeks Out – "Almost There"**

**Two Weeks Out – "Sweat the Details"**

**One Week Out – "Last Minute Prep"**

If you were not able to join us for the webinar, we encourage you to share these valuable take-aways with your Aquatic Facility Operators:

- Build in extra time for potential delayed services and shipments, mechanical issues, need to seek out alternative vendors, or staffing difficulties.
- Have extra equipment and mechanical parts on hand to eliminate down time due to mechanical failures.
- Inspect current inventories. Chemicals and test kits can degrade over time so you may need to replace more supplies than in normal years. "When in doubt, throw it out (responsibly)."

The 10-week mark for those of you planning to open your facility Memorial Day weekend is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Do not delay, get started today! Please reach out to me, [jennyp@irmarisk.org](mailto:jennyp@irmarisk.org), or anyone in the IRMA Risk Management & Training Department for more assistance.