



NEWS RELEASE

City Manager's Office

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For Immediate Release

Monday, August 5, 2019

Lake Jackson, Texas

**City of Lake Jackson
Outdoor Pool Chemical Event Update
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2019**

On Friday night August 2nd at our "dive-in" movie event at our outdoor pool attendees, mostly children, were exposed to water treatment chemicals (chlorine was the main chemical). This sent eleven children and an adult to the hospital. Six were transported by EMS to CHI St. Luke's here in Lake Jackson. Another half dozen were taken to Chi St. Luke's by their families. Eleven of the twelve were treated and released by Chi St. Luke's. One child was transported to Houston. The Mayor has been in contact with all the families to express our concerns and offer our support. As we said in our first news release, we are devastated that such a fun event turned bad and precious children were exposed to these treatment chemicals.

We continue to ask the community to pray for a full recovery for all the children affected. We ask special prayers for the child being treated in Houston. That child is still being treated. Again, we pray for a speedy and complete recovery.

We had the pool equipment inspected by our pool service company. We also reviewed procedures with the City Parks and Recreation staff present at the event.

As best as we can determine at this time, staff on site noticed that the water level in the pool was getting high. We had the water slide running putting more water into the pool. We also had a good number of people in the pool (the pool however, was NOT at capacity).

So, a staff member entered the pool equipment room and began the process to drain some water from the pool. When the pool was put back into regular operation, that is when a surge of treatment chemicals flowed into the pool. The first place these chemicals entered the pool was in the shallow end of the pool near where the movie screen was set up. The treatment chemicals entered from the bottom of the pool and bubbled up to the surface.

It is apparent that during the operation to drain water from the pool the chemical feed valve was not turned to the off position. This allowed treatment chemicals to accumulate in the pipe; and, when the pool was put back into regular operation this accumulation of chemicals flowed into the pool.

All of the pool equipment has been checked out by our pool service company and is in proper working condition. Also, proper procedures are being reinforced with all staff in order to prevent this type of event from ever happening again.

The outdoor pool will re-open tomorrow (Tuesday 8/6).

Again, we pray for a complete healing for all those affected.

William P. Yenne
City Manager
City of Lake Jackson