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## **Getting Your Pool Prepared For the Upcoming Tropical Storm**

SARASOTA, FL – With the upcoming tropical storm approaching from hurricane Elsa the Florida Swimming Pool Association is here to help to make sure you are prepared. These helpful tips can protect your swimming pool, hot tub, and patio.

While we have already begun to see some of the effects of hurricane Elsa, the next 24-48 will be crucial to protecting your backyard oasis. There are many things to consider first. Do not drain your pool! Keep proper water levels in your pool, the weight of the water holds the sides and bottoms in place during the hurricane or tropical storm. Shock your pool – you may lose power for an extended amount of time, meaning your pool should be 'super chlorinated' – this will help your pool's water chemistry. Make sure to turn off all power at the circuit breakers before a storm hits. Any exposed electrical equipment such as motors for the pumps should be tightly covered with plastic wrap. If flooding is expected, attempt to remove and place at higher ground.

During the storm do not use your pool. Lightning, high winds, and other dangers are unpredictable. Do not go outside to check on or change anything during the storm – assess damage after.

After the storm has passed and it is safe there are still precautions you should consider. Do not immediately turn your pumps back on after the storm has passed. Remove debris from the pool with a net, skimmer, or pool rake — do not use your regular pool vacuum equipment or pool pumps as they are likely to clog the plumbing. Before touching any electrical equipment after the storm, be sure that everything is dry. Check circuit breakers to be sure they are off before attempting to reconnect electrical equipment such as pump motors. Inspect wiring for proper connections. If electric motors have been exposed to water, they should be checked by a professional. Shock your pool again, this will help begin the process of getting your pool back into balance.

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The Florida Swimming Pool Association is a trade association for the pool and spa industry in Florida. There are approximately 700 member businesses in 14 Chapters across the state. Members are required to abide by a code of ethics and to be properly licensed and insured. FSPA provides the industry with access to continuing education courses, information on current trends and issues, and an arbitration program and government relations representation. FSPA is governed by a Board of Directors.