



# SHIFT BRIEFING



## POOL CHEMICAL SECURITY BEST PRACTICES

Authorities in Massachusetts say muriatic acid was stolen from a nearby pool building and poured on nearby slides resulting in chemical burns to two children.

Authorities were called one Sunday morning after children were hurt using the slide at the playground, resulting in “burn-like injuries,” the fire department said in a [news release](#). Firefighters quickly found the hazardous substance on three slides and determined it to be an acid.

At the same time, investigators found a pump room in the basement of a pool building nearby had been broken into. Two fences were climbed, and a cover to the ventilation shaft was torn off to enter the pool room, which stored the muriatic acid. The fire department reported the pool chemicals were properly secured in the building.

The town and the state Department of Environmental Protection paid a specialty contractor to clean the playground and other materials. The playground area will remain fenced off until the next steps are determined.

In this case, the pool staff appeared to do everything correction to secure the chemicals. The hazardous chemicals were locked up in a chemical room behind a locked security fence. But I can't help but wonder what the headline would have been if the chemicals had not been in a locked room. Can you imagine if a worker had left the door unlocked or even propped open, and the chemicals were used to hurt a child? Let's talk about how we secure our chemicals:

### *Where in this facility are hazardous chemicals located?*

Maybe pump rooms, cleaning chemical store rooms & closets, storage sheds.

### *What hazardous chemicals are at those locations?*

Have the SDS binder with you, maybe muriatic acid, chlorine, etc.

### *What Engineering Controls are in place to keep the chemicals secured?*

Door locks, and maybe automatic door closers, CCTV.

### *What policies and procedures are in place to keep the chemicals secured?*

Have relevant policies and procedures manual with you.

### *Are there any challenges to ALWAYS using the Engineering Controls or following the policies and procedures?*

*During routine operations?*

*During chemical delivery?*

*During any 'unusual' situations?*

Be prepared to discuss options to improve security during any challenges presented by the staff.

Thank you. Let's all commit now to never leaving a space with hazardous chemicals unsecured – 100% secure, 100% of the time.