



Sept. 02, 2008

# **tideline aquatics** Newsletter

## **Tideline Aquatics Store Hours**

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm  
Saturday 10am-6pm  
Sundays 1pm-5pm

## **THE QUESTION OF THE DAY** **CONCERNING HANNA**

First, we are aware that conditions could change concerning Hanna but at this time, it does appear we will be impacted in some manner from this storm. Many of you have called the store wondering what action you should take in the event of a power outage. We covered this subject just a few weeks ago but we wanted to be more specific considering the number of storms currently in the Atlantic.

### **'FISH ONLY' AQUARIUMS**

If the power to your home goes out due to a storm, you should have a battery powered air pump to keep the aquarium oxygenated if the power will be out longer than 4 hours. In aquariums up to 400 gallons, a single battery powered air pump will provide enough oxygen to your animals unless your aquarium is heavily stocked such as with many African Cichlid aquariums. In that event, you may want to consider two pumps or one of the battery back-up systems (sold at stores like Cosco and Sams Wholesale) that will operate your filtration system for 24 hours or more. The aquarium does not have to be oxygenated continuously. Run the battery powered air pump or filtration pump (canister, power filter, wet/dry pump) about 15-20 minutes each hour or two depending on whether your fish begin to hang at the surface. **DO NOT FEED YOUR FISH DURING A POWER OUTAGE.** The fish will be fine for up to 5 days in most cases without food if they are in good condition. If the power is out for more than 24 hours, the accumulation of ammonia and/or nitrite could occur. If you test your water

and see these levels climbing up, simply use a product like Amquel Plus or Prime to reduce the levels daily until your power returns and the biological filter stabilizes. Biological media like bioheels, biofoams, etc that are located in an outside filter should be placed in the aquarium if the filter is inoperable. This will keep the media moist and save the beneficial bacteria growing there. If the power is out more than two days, any water trapped inside filters should be discarded **BEFORE** the power is restored to the filter. With no circulation, the trapped water can become foul and pollute the aquarium when the power is restored.

Temperature is something difficult to control in a power outage. As the house temperature rises, the aquarium temperature will rise as well. Opening windows and opening the aquarium cover can help. Folks often want to use ice to cool the aquarium. Sudden cooling can often cause disease outbreaks. Instead, leave the aquarium alone unless the water temperature gets above 86 degrees. Only then would we suggest placing ice or ice packs in a plastic bag floating in the aquarium to bring down the temperature. The problem with doing this is that the aquarium typically heats back up if the power is to be out for an extended period.

Last, keep your fish calm during a power outage. You can place a light sheet over the front to keep them calm. Avoid any feeding of the fish and avoid partial water changes until after the power is restored unless the aquarium is in an emergency situation that cannot be corrected by chemical treatments.

### **SALTWATER AQUARIUMS & REEFS** **WITH LIVE ROCK**

If the power is out in your home, your aquarium does have an advantage. The live rock **IS** a large part of your biological filter. This will greatly reduce the chance that the water develops

ammonia and nitrite problems as long as you do not feed the fish or invertebrates or allow the oxygen levels to drop to low. Once again, the addition of a simple battery powered air pump turned on for about 20 minutes every 1-2 hours will usually suffice in keeping your animals alive. If there are any signs of fish gasping, snails heading toward the water surface or animals that usually hide suddenly moving about the aquarium, be sure to oxygenate the water immediately. Besides oxygen, the water temperature is more critical to your invertebrates. By keeping aquarium covers open, opening windows in the house and if possible, have a fan blowing over the water surface (run by a generator of course), you may be able to keep the water temperature below 85 degrees. Many corals, polyps and mushrooms begin to suffer in temperatures above 85 for extended periods. Plastic bags filled with ice or ice packs floating in the aquarium can help to keep the temperature below 85 degrees. Most marine fish can handle the warm water just fine. Sudden drops in temperature though, can cause disease outbreaks. Once again, you can use a battery powered air pump or one of the battery back-up systems designed for computers to keep the water oxygenated. It is not necessary to run lights, just the necessities. Any water trapped in the filtration system that is not being circulated should be discarded after two days. Foul water suddenly be pumped back into your aquarium once the power is restored will often cause a catastrophe. Just mix some new water for getting your filtration system operational once the power is restored.

### **GARDEN PONDS AND KOI PONDS**

If your pond is heavily stocked with fish, it may require several battery powered air pumps to maintain enough oxygen in your pond to keep your fish alive. If your pond is not overstocked, then one air pump can keep your fish alive. **DO NOT FEED YOUR FISH WHILE THE POWER IS OUT!** The fish will be fine up to 5 days with no food if they are in good condition. If the ponds biological filtration system is movable, then remove it from the filter and place it in the pond (bagged ribbon material, bagged bio-media, etc). Any water remaining in the filter should be discarded. In the heat, the water will quickly foul. When the power is restored, this foul water

will be pumped into your pond possibly causing a catastrophe. Pond water is extremely warm this time of year so keep your fish calm so they will use less oxygen. Use chemicals like Amquel Plus or Prime to reduce the accumulation of ammonia or nitrite if the levels begin to climb (often only after two days or more without power). If tree limbs, pine needles and/or leaves have been blown into your pond, dip these out immediately after the storm has passed. Decaying debris in your pond after the storm will damage the water quality!



**EACH BATTERY PUMP REQUIRES TWO 'D' CELL BATTERIES AT LEAST EVERY 24 HOURS!**

We sold out of battery powered air pumps quickly today. We have more coming by truck on Wednesday but we will not have enough for everyone. You can call and reserve these inexpensive pumps on Wednesday while supplies

last. We have two types, one that is turned on by you manually. The other comes on automatically if the power is out. If you do not plan on leaving the area, please hold one of the manual air pumps. This will allow folks that must evacuate an option for keeping their fish alive. The manual pump sells for \$13.99 and the auto-pump sells for just over \$20.00. If you can afford it, try picking up a battery back-up unit designed for computers. These are sold at stores like Cosco and Sams Wholesale (and perhaps other stores that sell electronics and computers). Just plug your main pump into this unit. Often, there is enough power stored to keep most water pumps, canister filters and power filters running for up to 24 hours if the power is out.

Once again, we do not want to alarm you folks but we do want you to be able to save your animals if a storm affects the Charleston area with power outages.

### **STORE HOURS IF THE STORM COMES OUR WAY**

We will remain open regular store hours until we know what day/days we may be impacted by the storm. Unless the power is out, we will reopen the day after the storm has passed. We will know better once the forecast is firm with the current storm. We cancelled fish orders for this week just to be cautious. We also cannot accept any fish trade-ins until the danger has passed. Be safe folks, be prepared and please come by the store if you need anything.

Chris and the entire Tideline Aquatics' Staff

