

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Date: 11/3/2008

To: Swimming Pool Name
Address
City, State, Zip

RE: Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act

Dear Owner/Operator

This letter is being sent out to provide information to all public swimming pools and spas in Laramie County, Wyoming. Many of you are already aware of the new federal law regarding swimming pool and spa drains. This information is being sent out to make everyone aware of the federal law and to help you understand it better.

On December 19, 2007, the President signed into law the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, named after the daughter of James and Nancy Baker, and the granddaughter of the former Secretary of State James Baker III. Graeme Baker died in a tragic accident in June 2002 after the suction from a spa drain entrapped her under the water. This act was first introduced by Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz(FL) and was supported by the Baker Family and Safe Kids Worldwide.

There is an annual average of 283 drowning deaths (2003 – 2005) and 2700 emergency room treated submersion injuries (2005 – 2007) involving children younger than 5 in pools and spas. In addition, from 1997 – 2007, there were 74 reported incidents associated with suction entrapment, including nine deaths and 63 injuries. The new law is aimed at reducing these deaths and injuries by making pools and spas safer, securing the environment around them, and educating customers and industry on pool safety. After December 19, 2008, this Act will become federal law.

Presently, it is known that federal Consumer Public Safety Commission (CPSC) inspectors will at some point be inspecting all public pools for compliance. If the pool is not in operation at the time of inspection then it must comply before it is opened to the public.

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department recommends that all public pool and spa operators comply with this law as soon as possible. It is recommended that the operator preserve a copy of all invoices regarding this retrofit and take pictures of the drain and associated valves (if needed). The photographs should display the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8-2007 numerical designation as to the type and flow rate. This would be important evidence for you to provide the CPSC inspector.

It is very important to note that this is a federal law, however, suction outlets must comply with the Wyoming Pool Rule Chapter 4, Section 17, (b)(i). The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department will be glad to answer any questions or concerns that you might have. Copies of the latest CPSC guidance documents are included in this letter. Updated information can be found at <http://www.cpsc.gov/> as it becomes available.