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Services Provided

Disease Surveillance
Emergency Preparedness
Environmental Health

- Septic Inspections
- Restaurant Inspections
- Lodging Inspections
- Child Care Inspections

Family Beginnings
Health Education
Primary Care Program
Special Deliveries Program
Vital Records

- Birth Certificates
- Death Certificates

Walk-in Clinic

- Adult/Child Vaccinations
- HIV/STD Testing
- Pregnancy Testing
- Overseas Vaccinations

WIC

Women's Healthcare

- Birth Control
- Well Women Exams

Partnership Programs

Community Readiness Challenge
Healthy Kids Challenge

Action Required.

March 5, 2009

Re: Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act

Dear Swimming Pool Operator:

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act was named after the daughter of James and Nancy Baker and the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker III. Graeme Baker died at the age of 7 in a tragic accident in June 2002 after the suction from a spa drain entrapped her under the water. The new law was passed to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

The law requires that by December 19, 2008 (Pools and spas not open on December 19, 2008 are not required to be in compliance until the day the pool or spa is re-opened.), **ALL** public pool owners/operators must:

- Install drain covers that meet the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8-2007 standard on EVERY drain/grate. A list of cover manufacturers can be found at <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/vgb/draincman.html#drain>.
- Install an automatic shut-off system, gravity drainage system, Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS), suction-limiting vent system or disable the drain, if the pool operates off of a SINGLE main drain. A list of SVRS manufacturers can be found at <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/vgb/draincman.html#vacuum>. Pools and spas with unblockable drains are exempt from this requirement. The Act defines unblockable drain as a drain of "any size or shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment issues". The ANSI/APSP-7 2006 standard requires that to be considered unblockable, a drain must be at least 31" in one dimension and at least 3" in the other dimension or must be larger than 18" in one dimension and larger than 23" in the other dimension with 4 in. radius corners.
- Ensure that dual or multiple main drains are at least 3 feet apart.

The new Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act requires that all new drain and grate covers must be certified to all applicable standards. **Please contact a reliable pool maintenance company to assist you in complying with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act.**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that to ELIMINATE and not just MITIGATE the drain entrapment hazard in pools and spas, pool owners should disable old drains or build new pools without any drains and use gutters, overflows and/or skimmers to provide water to the pump. If you have a question or concern about the Pool & Spa Safety Act, please send an e-mail to info@cpsc.gov or contact the Platte County Health Department at (816) 858-2412.

Sincerely,

Dan Luebbert, R.E.H.S.
Environmental Health Supervisor

Platte County Health Department provides all services on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, handicap, age or religion.