



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

CHAIRMAN INEZ M. TENENBAUM

August 8, 2012

Dear Health and Safety Colleague:

After learning of the recent entrapment incident in Tennessee involving a young girl in a wading pool, I am writing to all state and local safety officials to remind you of the important role you play in ensuring that these facilities meet all safety requirements and of the importance of completing comprehensive inspections. Swimming pools, wading pools, and spas used by the public for sports, recreation, and exercise should be as safe as possible, especially those used by young children.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (P&SS Act) is intended to eliminate the hidden hazards of pool and spa drain entrapments and eviscerations. Entrapment-related fatalities occurred prior to the passage of the P&SS Act, but since the law went into effect in December 2008, there have been no reported entrapment fatalities. We want to continue this excellent safety record.

Public pools and spas are required to be equipped with compliant suction outlet covers and secondary anti-entrapment devices or systems where single-suction outlets exist. After more than three years of the P&SS Act being in effect, all public pools and spas should be in compliance with the requirements of the regulation. CPSC staff continues to inspect pools and spas and to enforce these requirements throughout the country. Because of the large number of aquatic facilities and limited CPSC staff, we depend on you and other state or local health and safety officials to help enforce the requirements of the P&SS Act.

Comprehensive inspections of pool and spa facilities are required to assure correct installation and operation of the safety device(s). You will find valuable tools and resources available on the *State and Local Officials* page on our *Pool Safely* website ([www.poolsafely.gov/](http://www.poolsafely.gov/)). Specifically, CPSC staff has developed *Guidance to Compliance*, an eight-part video training series explaining how to properly inspect pools and spas for

compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Please go to our *Pool Safely* website to view the videos or to request a free copy be sent to you.

I hope that we can continue to work together to make pools and spas as safe as we can for all who use them.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Inez M. Tenenbaum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I".

Inez M. Tenenbaum  
Chairman