

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2011

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Drain cover recall may affect area pools and in-ground spas

(Lawrence, KS) – A recall of anti-entrapment drain covers may affect pools and in-ground spas in Douglas County. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is working to contact local pool and spa operators of the recall.

Eight brands of covers, designed to prevent suction entrapment, have been determined by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to be incorrectly rated to handle water flow created by pump suction. This can possibly result in entrapment of pool and spa users. According to the CPSC, the drain covers affected were installed after December 2008. Anti-entrapment drain covers have been required as part of the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act passed in 2007.

Along with the CPSC, the Health Department recommends that all pool and in-ground spa managers determine whether the drain covers installed at their facilities are affected. Managers who find that their pool or spa has one of the recalled covers should immediately contact the manufacturer to receive a replacement or retrofit.

For a complete list of manufacturers, dates sold and additional information, go to the Health Department's website at www.ldchealth.org. The CPSC has set up a recall hotline at (800) 638-2772.

“This recall comes at a time when most pools have already opened for the season,” said Richard Ziesenis, environmental health director at the department. “However, to prevent the risk of accidental drowning or injury, it is extremely important that pool and spa operators determine whether or not their drain cover(s) may be affected.

Ziesenis added that now is also a good time to ensure other elements of pool safety are followed – such as accurate maintenance records (including the type, size and flow ratings utilized for drain covers and pumps), continual monitoring of chlorine and pH levels and ensuring that safety equipment, such as life ring buoys, are located poolside in the event of an emergency.