



## SOUTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

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### Public Pool and Spa Safety Act mandates use of drain covers, anti-entrapment devices

A federal law that goes into effect this month requires all non-residential swimming pools and spas to be equipped with drain covers and anti-entrapment devices or systems, says Southwest Health District Environmental Health Director Dewayne Tanner.

“Owners of public pools and spas have had a year to bring their facilities into compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, which aims at protecting children and toddlers from being sucked to their deaths by pool drains,” Tanner said. “There are hidden hazards in pools that have resulted in needless, tragic deaths. We are putting a stop to that.”

Under the new law, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission requires ASME/ANSI-compliant drain covers and a second anti-entrapment system to be installed when there is only a single main drain. Seasonal pools and spas that are closed now must be in compliance with the law on the day they reopen in 2009, while those that operate year round must be in compliance by Dec. 19.

A particular focus is on wading pools, pools designed specifically for toddlers and young children, in-ground spas and facilities with flat drain grates and single main drain systems, since they pose the greatest danger of entrapment or evisceration to children, Tanner said.

Pools and spas that fail to meet the Act’s requirements face closure, he said. “State health and enforcement agencies share the responsibility to ensure this law is properly enforced.”

Facilities affected by the new regulations include pools and spas open to the general public or members of organizations and their guests as well as multi-resident apartment complexes and real estate developments.

More information about the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act is available you’re your county health department environmental services specialists or at the official CPSC website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

Baker	Calhoun	Colquitt	Decatur	Dougherty	Early	Grady
Lee	Miller	Mitchell	Seminole	Terrell	Thomas	Worth