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Drowning risk increases with drain cover recall

Fort Myers, FL—The Lee County Health Department recommends parents and care givers closely supervise children around water, and especially keep children from playing near pool drains, to prevent drowning this Memorial Day holiday weekend which traditionally results in drownings.

A new drain cover recall by the Consumer Product Safety Commission was issued yesterday for private and public pools due to incorrect ratings by testing laboratories of the covers' abilities to avoid entrapment under certain pump pressures.

“This voluntary recall should be noted by all pool owners to have whoever installed your pool drain cover identify the manufacturer and model number of the cover, determine if it’s on the recall list and immediately replace listed covers according to the manufacturer’s instructions,” said Diane Holm, Public Information Officer for the Health Department. To check a cover for recall go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11230.html>

“It should also serve as a reminder to prevent unauthorized access to pools, provide constant supervision when children are in or near water and be prepared to respond to an emergency,” added Holm, who is also with the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. “Every year the Centers for Disease Control documents hundreds of children died from drowning in pools, and 10 times that many were hospitalized.”

A multi-faceted drowning prevention campaign was launched by CPSC <http://www.poolsafely.gov/>, the Florida Department of Health <http://www.waterprooffl.com/> and the National Drowning Prevention Alliance www.ndpa.org. All websites have interactive children’s and adult safety messages to prevent drowning.

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