

INCIDENT INVESTIGATION ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Childhood Pool and Spa FATAL Submersions/Drownings

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

DATE OF INCIDENT: CATID: TYNN26 2020

FOLLOW-UP REQUESTED HAZARD ANALYSIS COMPLIANCE

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ASSIGNMENT MESSAGE:

This investigation is for a FATAL submersion or FATAL drowning incident.

On average, there were 4,800 pool and spa-related emergency department (ED)-treated submersion injuries each year for 2016-2018, and 269 pool and spa-related fatalities per year for 2014-2016 involving children younger than five years of age. Fatal submersions/drownings are one of the leading causes of death for young children, but with efforts from the safety community, are holding steady. They can occur in several types of residential swimming pools, including in-ground and above-ground pools. Children can also drown in spas or hot tubs. Within the above-ground portable swimming pool category, several construction designs are available to consumers. In particular, inexpensive, large, deep, portable pools that can accommodate several adults and children, and large portable juvenile pools with elaborate built-in play activities are part of the consumer market. Also, recreational spa (hot tub) products are becoming less expensive and more widely available to consumers. The extent to which these products are influencing drowning data is not yet clear, but certainly traditional layers of protection against drowning, such as 4-sided fencing, are less likely to be used with these products.

Portable Pools: A portable pool is classified as any pool that can be set up/taken down or moved to another location with relative ease. There are three categories of portable pools:

1. **Inflatable** – pools with an air-filled rim and flexible sides that are held up by the water pressure in the pool. Also called *soft-sided*, *self-rising*, or *self-setting* because the walls rise into place as the water is added.
2. **Framed Portable** – pools that have a tubular metal or plastic frame attached to some type of flexible material that forms the pool.
3. **Wading pools** – pools that limit the maximum possible water depth to 18 inches. Some have rigid sides and some are inflatable. This does not include in-ground wading pools.

To develop more effective drowning prevention strategies, it is essential to have a good understanding of products involved in drowning incidents and the layers of protection that were in place. As such, staff is emphasizing the continued need to collect detailed information on pools and spa incidents.

It is important to collect as much information as possible about the type of pool and the incident scenario.

The latest version of the annual pool or spa submersion report can be found at: https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Pool_or_Spa_Submersion_Estimated_Nonfatal_Drowning_Injuries_and_Reported_Drownings_May_2019.pdf?mW8FxiPVFOI3UErKzePwJ.JNoCc79yY5

Please include all primary and all backup contacts in the distribution of the completed IDI.

----- Area below will be completed in Data Systems -----

Person(s) to Contact:

Guidelines: Appendix 75 – Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs (Submersions)

Task Number:

Date:

Assigned to:

Processed by: lew