

# INCIDENT INVESTIGATION ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

## NEISS Pool and Spa Drain Entrapments

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

DATE OF INCIDENT:

CATID: STAN16 2020

FOLLOW-UP REQUESTED

HAZARD ANALYSIS  COMPLIANCE

PRIMARY CONTACT: Ted Yang, EPHA, 301-504- 7838, [TYang@cpsc.gov](mailto:TYang@cpsc.gov)

BACK-UP CONTACTS: Troy Whitfield, CRE, 301-504-7548, [TWhitfield@cpsc.gov](mailto:TWhitfield@cpsc.gov)  
Stefanie Marques, HS, 301-987-2581, [SMarques@cpsc.gov](mailto:SMarques@cpsc.gov)

**ASSIGNMENT MESSAGE:** Please conduct an on-site investigation and document through photos of the spa/pool, spa/pool drains, and the plumbing configuration. Obtain all reports and all pictures related to this incident. Also, make sure to obtain any pictures before the incident that show the pool set up, particularly the exact incident location. Please note that a spa (hot tub) is typically located outdoors and is used for recreation, whereas a whirlpool tub (jetted bathtub) found in indoor bathrooms is typically used for bathing. If this incident occurred in a public pool or spa, please fill out the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Verification of Compliance Form. Please send the completed IDI to all contacts.

**It is important to obtain *as much information as possible* about the product(s) involved and the incident scenario.**

The latest report can be found at:

[https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2019\\_Circulation\\_Entrapment.pdf?IzoaBIClbtP70RRVUJqPK3RI4Ikxyety](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2019_Circulation_Entrapment.pdf?IzoaBIClbtP70RRVUJqPK3RI4Ikxyety)

CPSC staff issued 2005 guidelines for reducing pool and spa entrapment hazards. Investigation of entrapment cases will allow staff to assess the efficacy of these guidelines. Please obtain all official documents including photos taken of the product and answer the following questions:

1. Describe in detail how the person became entrapped (what body part became entrapped) and how they were freed from the entrapment (*e.g.*, pushed off by themselves, pulled off by someone else, pool filtering system shut off, *etc.*). Describe the events that occurred including other people located at the residence at the time of the incident.
2. Where in the pool/spa was the victim found in relationship to the edge, steps, etc? Document the depth of the water in the pool/spa at the point where the victim was found. Inquire whether the depth of the water was the same at the time of the incident. Determine the length and depth of the pool/spa from the deepest to the shallowest area. Indicate the equipment present with the unit such as a spa cover, etc., and whether any of the equipment played a role in the incident.
3. Entanglement of hair or entrapment of body parts in or on the drains (suction outlets) of pools/spas can occur due to the suction/pressure differential created when a drain is blocked. Find out what the pool/spa plumbing configuration is and try to determine whether anyone recalls if that was the configuration at the time of the incident.
4. Please photograph the spa area, take up-close photos of the drains and drain covers, photos of the plumbing/equipment associated with the spa and photos of any suction relief devices installed. Note how far the shut off device is from the unit because the distance plays a role in the effectiveness of the device.

5. Determine how many drains the product has. Determine whether a drain (suction outlet) cover (or grate) was in place (missing screws or not properly installed at the time of the incident and whether the pool/spa had any suction relief device(s) installed. If so, what type of device(s) was present? Determine the make and model of the drain (suction outlet) cover, if known and whether it is labeled as meeting ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 or APSP-16 2011.
6. Document injuries to victim, obtain any medical records for treatment (note whether any was received on site and obtain any photos of the injuries shortly after the incident).
7. Document all manufacturer, brand and serial/model information, including construction or production dates, if possible. In the case of in-ground pools/spas, obtain the name of the construction company that built/installed the pool/spa. Try to determine whether the pool/spa has been properly maintained.
8. Identify all labels regarding certification, testing or conformance with mandatory or voluntary standards, or building codes. The text of any warning label or age labeling on or accompanying the product is also of interest and should be documented and photographed, if possible.

In conducting these investigations, please use Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs (Submersions) - Appendix 75 Investigation Guideline if applicable.

**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 – Spas, Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs**

**Task Number:**

**Date:**

**Assigned to:**

**Processed by: lew**