

June 28, 2011

DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 10-94
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
 ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
 ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: EDNA PRIMROSE
 National Director
 Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Water Safety 2011

1. Purpose. To remind Job Corps centers about the importance of complying with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, and to inform centers about the anti-entrapment drain cover recall.

2. Background. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), drowning is the sixth leading cause of unintentional injury or death for children and adults, and the second leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14. A relatively unknown hazard associated with swimming pools and in-ground spas is entrapment. Entrapment occurs when a swimmer is pinned underwater by the suction force of the pool or spa drain, and is unable to pull free. Entrapment most often involves a brittle, broken, improperly attached drain cover, or an uncovered drain. Between January 1990 and August 2004, the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) received information about 74 cases of body entrapment, which resulted in 13 fatalities. Thirty-one of the reported incidents occurred in swimming pools.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (Pool and Spa Safety Act) of 2007, which has been in effect since December 19, 2009, was named after 7-year-old Virginia Graeme Baker who drowned when she became entrapped underwater in a friend's spa. This act requires all pool and spa operators in the United States to install anti-entrapment drain covers. This applies to public, members-only, residential pools, or multifamily recreational facilities, hotels, and pools operated by the federal government, including military installations, regional offices, and apprenticeship and technical training facilities, including Job Corps centers.

On May 26, 2011, the CPSC issued a voluntary recall of more than 1 million in-ground spa and pool drain covers sold between December 2008 and April 2011. The CPSC determined

that the process used to determine water flow rates through the drain covers was flawed. The resulting water flow rates for the drain covers are incorrect, which poses an entrapment hazard to pool and in-ground spa users. There are no reports of injuries or fatalities, however, CPSC is urging all pool and in-ground spa operators affected by the recall to replace or retrofit the affected drain covers immediately. Resources are included below to assist centers in determining if they are affected by the recall.

3. Action. In accordance with Job Corps Policy and Requirements Handbook (PRH) Chapter 5, Section 5.20, R5, all Job Corps centers are required to prepare applicable water-safety plans to address emergency-response procedures, cleaning and disinfecting procedures, recreational water-related illness awareness training, and CDC chlorine disinfection timetables. All students must complete required water-safety training in accordance with PRH Chapter 3, Section 3.18, R5, prior to engaging in on- or off-center aquatic activities.

Job Corps shall ensure that all students complete the required water-safety training. Students should be made aware of the entrapment hazard associated with swimming near or sitting on pool drain covers. Centers affected by the drain-cover recall are encouraged to suspend pool operation until new or retrofit drain covers are installed. The following resources are provided to assist with identification of pool and in-ground spa drain covers included in the CPSC recall:

- “Eight Manufacturers Recall Pool and In-Ground Spa Drain Covers Due to Incorrect Ratings Covers Pose Possible Entrapment Hazard to Swimmers”
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11230.html>
- “Paramount Pool & Spa System Recalls Certain Drain Covers Due to Incorrect Rating; Covers Pose Possible Entrapment Hazard to Swimmers”
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11739.html>
- “Waterway Plastics Recalls Certain Drain Covers Due to Incorrect Ratings Covers Pose Possible Entrapment Hazard to Swimmers”
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11231.html>

Addressees are to ensure that this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Direct all inquiries to Curtis Massey at (202) 693-3096 or cmassey@doleta.gov.