News Release

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APSP Urges Kentucky and Other States to Adopt ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard

Alexandria, VA (July 28, 2008) – In the wake of two suction entrapments last week in the state of Kentucky, one resulting in the death of a 14-year-old girl, the **Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP)** is urging that all states adopt the 2006 ANSI/APSP-7, American National Standard for Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Catch Basins. This comprehensive standard addresses all five forms of entrapment; hair, limb, body, evisceration and mechanical. Adoption and implementation of this standard could have prevented these tragic events last week.

"What's troubling is that members of the APSP Technical Committee and of the ANSI/APSP-7 writing committee have been alerting public health officials in the state of Kentucky, informing them that the existing state rules did not protect against all forms of entrapment," said Carvin DiGiovanni, APSP's Senior Director for Standards and Government Relations. "We are eager to work with the state of Kentucky. We have provided copies of the standard, offered to bring in training, and offered to provide demonstrations for rule making officials. "

The new Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines, ANSI/APSP-7, and ANSI/NSPI-5 Standard for Residential and ANSI/NSPI-1 Standard for Public Pools all recognize pools can be built without submerged suction outlets and that outlets on existing pools can be disabled, thus eliminating the hazard altogether. The Kentucky state code already requires vented

skimmers that are capable of providing 100% of the water required for pool circulation, which do not present a direct suction hazard. Elimination of the hazard by disabling the drain or not installing drains in new construction is the surest way to avoid the hazard. The APSP has urged, and will continue to urge Kentucky and all states to incorporate variances or changes in code so that pools can be built without submerged suction outlets (drains).

Wherever drains are present, they must be protected by safety covers that comply with the new 2007 ASME/ANSI A 112.19.8 drain cover standard. These covers are the only devices that can protect against all five forms of entrapment. Because there is no backup to all five entrapment hazards, anytime a cover is missing or broken, the pool must be immediately shut down to all bathers until repairs can be made.

“We recognize that for many existing pools, especially in hotel chains, apartment complexes, and condominium associations, reversing the flow through the outlets – i.e., turning them into safe inlets – is a very effective way to improve pool circulation and can actually bring the risk of suction entrapment down to zero,” said Dan Johnson, a Florida pool builder, and Chairman of the ANSI/APSP-5 Residential Pool Standard and Member of APSP Technical Committee. “Elimination of the hazard beats mitigation of the hazard every time.“ Unfortunately, while drains are not necessary for proper circulation and sanitization, the Kentucky Department of Health continues to require that drains be installed. Similar requirements exist in Minnesota, where 6-year-old Abigail Taylor suffered a fatal evisceration in a public wading pool.

APSP technical committee member Ray Cronise had been in frequent communication with the state of Kentucky. “This is going to haunt me for a while as I have a daughter that turns 13 next week,” added Cronise. “In my last plea to the state on May 13, 2008, I warned of Kentucky code inadequacies and urged them to take action. I even emphasized this very risk of limb entrapment and copied the Kentucky Attorney General, but there was no response. My sincere condolences go out to the family and I remain ready to help the state fix the deficient and unsafe code.“

The ANSI/APSP-7 Entrapment Avoidance Standard remains the only national consensus standard that addresses all five forms of suction entrapment hazards, and is now supported by the 2007 Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. It is the fastest and surest way for states to bring complete compliance with the new federal law to all public and residential pools and spas.

For more information on APSP/ANSI-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance contact Carvin DiGiovanni of APSP at cdigiovanni@APSP.org.

About APSP

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa and hot tub industry with a mission to enhance the business success of members. APSP member companies include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, retailers, and service professionals. APSP members adhere to a code of business ethics and share a commitment to public health and safety in the use of pools, spas and hot tubs. For more information visit www.APSP.org.

About Swim-Inc

Dan Johnson is a State Licensed swimming pool contractor from Florida who has earned the Certified Building Professional credential from the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP). He has 33 years of experience in the pool industry and is a member of the writing committee, which produced the current American National Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Catch Basins. Dan is founder and owner of Swim Incorporated, a commercial and residential pool construction firm, and has been building pools without submerged suction outlets for over five years. He is currently Chairman of the writing committee for the APSP/ANSI-5 Standard for In-ground Residential Swimming Pools.

About Trilogy Pools , LLC

Ray Cronise is a co-founder and Vice President for Engineering for Trilogy Pools, in Fayetteville TN. He has served on the APSP/ANSI writing committees covering residential and public pools and entrapment avoidance. Mr. Cronise is also a Past Member of the APSP Builders Council and Currently Serves on the APSP Technical Committee. Before joining the pool industry, Mr. Cronise had a 15-year career at The NASA George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama where he served as a Material Scientist for the Microgravity Science and Applications Division. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals in the area of Fluid Mechanics and Microgravity Science.