



FACT SHEET

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Scottsdale's compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

Dec. 19, 2008

Scottsdale's municipal swimming pools have safe drain systems and will remain open for swimming while the city meets new federal certification requirements.

New federal standards require covers or alternative solutions on types of pool and spa drains that could entrap swimmers underwater. The Consumer Product Safety Commission set Dec. 19 as the deadline for pool operators to have the new safety measures in place.

Scottsdale's pools are newer or have been renovated in recent years, and the newer filtration and circulation systems do not pose the same risks to swimmers. The pools do not have underwater main drains that create dangerous suction.

During the winter months, three aquatic centers are open for lap and open swimming and for water exercise. They are Eldorado at 2301 N. Miller Road, Cactus at 7202 E. Cactus Road, and McDowell Mountain Ranch at 15525 N. Thompson Peak Parkway. The Chaparral Park Aquatic Center is closed during the winter months.

The CPSC is requiring all public pool and spa operators to inspect their drain systems and bring them into compliance. However, some operators are closing pools while they wait for manufacturers to produce suitable drain covers or work out other measures to comply.

The CPSC earlier this month also required that independent experts must certify that systems meet the new federal rules. Scottsdale is hiring an independent consultant to meet these additional CPSC requirements for certification as quickly as possible.

Wading pools and other water features open only during the summer swimming season also will be evaluated, and any alterations needed to meet the new federal regulations will be completed before these facilities are open for public use.

For more information about Scottsdale's aquatics program, go to www.scottsdaleaz.gov/sports/aquatics. Information on the CPSC requirements is available on the agency's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.