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### APSP STATEMENT ON STUDY:

#### ***Pediatric Submersion Events in Portable Above-Ground Pools in the United States, 2001 –2009***

(ALEXANDRIA, VA)—*The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) released the following statement today regarding the study, [Pediatric Submersion Events in Portable Above-Ground Pools in the United States, 2001 –2009](#). The statement can be attributed to Carvin DiGiovanni, APSP senior director, technical and standards.*

“We agree with the report as it underscores and reiterates what we and the CPSC have known for years about preventing pool drowning. The key is education and awareness as to **the importance of adult supervision with the added clarification that supervision means actively watching your child without any other distractions.**

APSP supports layers of protection to prevent unintended access to the pool, particularly for toddlers 5 years or younger. The primary layer of protection is constant adult supervision supplemented by barriers, alarms and other related devices that can be used in combination. **Without constant adult supervision strong willed toddlers will eventually overcome a fence, enter a gate inadvertently left opened or bypass an alarm intentionally deactivated to gain unintended access to a pool.** Other than constant adult supervision, the APSP does not support mandating the use of any one additional layer over another as "one size or option may not fit all situations". We encourage homeowners to purchase the additional layer of protection that works for them knowing that they would be more likely to use it.

APSP has been proactive with pool safety. We have:

- Worked with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission since its inception back in the 1970's to specifically address the reduction of pool and spa incidences up to the present, by helping Congress write the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act in 2006 and supporting CPSC's efforts to implement it today.
- Our Standard, the American National Standard (ANSI/APSP-4) for Aboveground/Onground Residential Swimming Pools has been written into law in many jurisdictions, providing safety guidelines for code officials when issuing a permit for the use of an aboveground pool. Specifically, the Standard addresses the design, construction and installation of aboveground pools that contain 36" or more of water, and provides safety requirements on how to prevent unintended access.
- Our National Water Safety Month engages all of our members across the country in promoting the safe use of our products.

Smaller, inflatable portable pools, that are characteristically sold by the mass merchandisers, and are specifically mentioned by this study, fall under another non-APSP consensus standard entitled, ASTM F 2666-07, Standard Specification for Aboveground Portable Pools for Residential Use (less than 36" of water). However, any pool regardless of size, should follow the safety requirements in our ANSI/APSP-4 Standard."

APSP is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa, and hot tub industry. Its mission is to promote consumer safety, and enhance the business success of its members. 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. APSP member companies include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, suppliers, retailers and service professionals. For more information about the APSP please visit [APSP.org](http://APSP.org).

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