

Dear Pool and Spa Friends:

At a news conference today in Chula Vista, Calif., Chairman Inez Tenenbaum was joined by the Honorable Cheryl Cox, Mayor of Chula Vista; Yosina Lissebeck, Parent Advocate and Safe Kids Coalition Leader; Dr. Anne Marie Birkbeck-Garcia, a pediatrician; and Olympic Swimmer Janet Evans, a parent herself, to kick-off the second year of the Pool Safely campaign and release the CPSC's annual drowning statistics report. The event, held just days before the traditional start of the summer swimming season on Memorial Day, was designed to draw attention to the campaign's messaging and drive home the importance of continued vigilance and attention to drowning prevention nationwide. In the first five months of 2011, there have been 118 drowning and near-drowning incidents across the country. Chairman Tenenbaum and other speakers urged parents and families to adopt Pool Safely's message and practice as many simple steps as possible to keep children and everyone safe around water this summer.

For the complete reports see: Pool and Spa Submersions 2011 (<http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia11/os/poolsub2011.pdf>) and Circulation/Suction Entrapments 2011 (<http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia11/os/entrap11.pdf>). The years for reported injury and fatality statistics differ due to a lag in fatality reporting.

In addition, Chairman Tenenbaum announced an important recall of one million pool and spa drain covers, which CPSC determined were incorrectly rated to handle the flow of water through the cover and could pose a possible entrapment hazard to swimmers and bathers. Eight manufacturers, whose products were identified, will provide a free replacement or retrofit depending on their model and make. Except for kiddie pools, wading pools and in-ground spas, retrofit or replacement of covers are not required in pools with multiple drain systems or gravity drainage systems. CPSC's press release can be found at www.CPSC.gov<<http://www.CPSC.gov>>. Please contact the manufacturers of these recalled covers for additional information.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Reilly
Pool Safely Campaign Leader
Consumer Product Safety Commission