

From a Harrisonburg VA news site

http://www.whsv.com/news/headlines/Dangerous_Types_of_Pool_Drain_Covers_160022335.html

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Is Your Drain Cover Safe?

Now that summer is here, you and your family may want to go to the pool. But when you head out, you might want to take a look at the drain cover. One type of drain cover took the life of seven-year-old Virginia Graeme Baker ten years ago, who was the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker.

She was stuck on the drain of a hot tub at a party, and after grown men jumped in and attempted to rescue her, she did not make it. The Virginia Graeme Baker law has been in effect since 2008, stating all public pools and spas must obtain newer, safer drain covers to make sure this does not happen again.

But the law does not affect home pools.

Wanda Willis with the Harrisonburg Fire Department said a lot of people do not know about the law, and have pools with flat drain covers with bigger holes, making it more likely for a child to get pulled by the drain.

"The holes were about a half an inch long. And those were big enough and large enough that if a child would get near that, it actually has so much force, that it would suck the child right there, and their clothes could get captured, or their hair. And then, once it's sucked in, it's not letting go," said Willis.

Willis urges pool owners to purchase the newer drain covers, that have more of a dome shape and much smaller holes.

