

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Pool Safety Council Issues Memorial Day Safety Reminders**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - May 20, 2009 – With Memorial Day approaching, swimming pools are on everyone’s mind, but safety should always come first. This traditional start to the swimming season is a great opportunity to remember a few important safety reminders that can make the difference between pool fun and tragedy.

For children aged one to fourteen, drowning is the second-most common cause of accidental death. Safe Kids USA, a child safety advocacy group, reports that 280 children under 5 years old drown every year in swimming pools across the country.

The Pool Safety Council encourages owners and operators of public and private pools to follow each of these easy tips to make sure everyone has a fun – and safe – time at the pool this summer:

- Nothing is more important to the safety of a swimming child than the eyes of attentive parents.
- Keep a landline phone near the pool, so that if there is an emergency you can call 911 and the operator will be able to instantly trace the call and send help.
- Surround your pool with four-sided fencing and a gate that locks.
- Never leave children unattended in or near the pool. Drowning takes only a few seconds.
- Even when there is a group of adults present, make sure one is dedicated to keeping an eye on any children in or near the pool. Giving one person that responsibility makes it far more likely potential problems are noticed right away.
- Make sure your pool is outfitted with approved safety drain covers and an anti-entrapment device to prevent drain entrapment, the often deadly tragedy of a swimmer becoming trapped by a pool drain’s suction. Public pools are required to adopt anti-entrapment measures by law, but PSC encourages private pool owners to follow suit.
- Take a CPR class to ensure potential drowning victims do not have to wait for paramedics to arrive.
- When not in use, keep hot tubs covered and locked.

By implementing these simple rules, we can all enjoy a long and safe summer of swimming fun.

The Pool Safety Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child drowning nationwide. For additional information, please visit our website at: [www.poolsafetycouncil.org](http://www.poolsafetycouncil.org).