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Over 90% Of All Pools & Hot Tubs Not Properly Safeguarded To Prevent Drownings

LOUISVILLE, CO – September 4, 2007 – In doing home & child safety evaluations, Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru™**, commonly sees that nearly all pools and hot tubs do not have appropriate safeguards in place to prevent drownings. Louie says, “Even though there are possible safeguards, they are not as fail-safe as they should be. It only takes about 1 minute for a child to have brain damage, and not much more time and they will have drowned. Children have a natural attraction towards water. If a pool or hot tub are not properly locked, a child will walk out and quietly fall into the water. And in many cases, they won’t come back up to the surface so you won’t hear them screaming.”

Louie’s recommendations for pools and hot tubs include:

- ◆ **Pool Safety Fencing** – You need to have a safety fence that is between your home and your pool or hot tub. The same goes and pond or fountain. These fences need to be at least 54”, preferably 60” tall, with self-closing, self-latching, child-resistant locks. They should be made out of material that is difficult to climb, like plastic meshing, and not something like chain link fencing. You should also look for pool fencing that has passed testing against the ASTM Standard F2286, Standard Design and Performance Specification for Removable Mesh Fencing for Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas.
- ◆ **Pool Alarms** – Even if you have pool safety fencing, you should have a second line of defense. A pool alarm will let you know if someone has gotten you’re your pool, even neighbor kids. You should purchase one that meets the ASTM Standard F2208-07, Standard Specification for Pool Alarms
- ◆ **Don’t Use Nets Over Pools** – These are devices that mount onto specially designed posts that are mounted into the pool deck. These are particularly

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dangerous for young children as they can try to walk onto these and fall into the holes of the netting, thus potentially trapping them.

- ◆ **Don't Rely On Retractable Pool Covers** – These covers serve two purposes: keeping water from evaporating and keeping debris from falling into the pool. Even though many pool cover companies will state that you can stand on them, they are still not safe. Over time, the material which has been exposed to the elements for possibly years can become less strong, thus making them unsafe to stand on. Also as these covers are waterproof, any water that falls onto the cover will tend to collect in the middle, thus making it attractive for a toddler to try to walk on the cover, and possibly fall into the pooled water. Further, it is easy to forget to close the cover when someone leaves the pool area, again making it easy for a child to slip into the water.
- ◆ **Don't Rely On Buckles To Lock Hot Tub Covers** – In many cases, people who have hot tubs and use them in the winter may neglect to buckle the covers down. Further, some children can actually unbuckle these. The famous golfer Jack Nicklaus lost a grandson at his home because the tub cover was not locked and the child crawled under the cover and drowned.
- ◆ **Congressional Action** – Currently, both the US House and Senate are working on bills (respectively HR1721 and S1771) to require pool safety fencing between the home and the pool. If enacted, it will require all new swimming pools and hot tubs to have a safety fence with a self-closing gate and self-latching with a minimum height of 54" above ground. If passed, these bills typically go into effect on January 1st.

Louie continues, "The unfortunate thing of this is that people just don't think it will happen to them. By carelessness or not having the right protection in place, it is a recipe for disaster for young children. Putting up a pool fence will go a long way to keeping kids safe at a home with a pool or hot tub." But remember, there is no substitute for attentive adult supervision for keeping your child safe."

For more information about Louie's 90% Rules, go to www.USSafetyPros.com.

*Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru**[™], president and founder of US Safety Pros, LLC is a Certified Child & Home Safety Professional in all aspects of home safety, from childproofing to home safety, radon testing & mitigation along with fire, carbon monoxide and barrier free construction. US Safety Pros has been protecting homes in Colorado for over 3 years, and has helped safeguard over 500 homes.*

*For more information about Louie Delaware, go to his web site, www.HomeSafetyGuru.com. **The Home Safety Guru**[™] is a registered trademark with*

the United States Patent & Trademark Office. *Louie's book **Relax – Your Child's Safe – A Practical Guide to Childproofing** will be published soon.*

Louie has been on Channels 7, 9 and 31, 850 KOA, 630 KHOW, AM760, KGFT Colorado Springs and in the Denver Post. Colorado Childproofers is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide (www.SafeKids.org), the International Association for Child Safety (www.IAFCS.org). See us at www.USSafetyPros.com, the [Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau](#) and [Tom Martino's Troubleshooter Referral Network](#).

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