



*For Immediate Release*

**National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®)  
Announces NSPF Funded Anti-Entrapment Vent Line  
Research accepted by Florida Building Commission**

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During a recent presentation to the Plumbing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Florida Building Commission, anti-entrapment research performed by Dr. William N. Rowley and funded by the National Swimming Pool Foundation®, clarified vent lines as an effective additional level of protection. The TAC met on June 14, 2004, to review a request to ban field-fabricated vent line systems in Florida. The existing Florida codes require dual main drains with a second level of protection, of which the vent line is one of the approved options to meet this requirement.

The Plumbing TAC listened to a presentation in defense of vent line systems, introduced by Alan Cooper, Florida Swimming Pool Association Builders Council, followed by Dr. Rowley's presentation. The report summarized his 30 years of findings which are provided in the draft NSPF® Safety Compendium chapter entitled, "*Analysis: Suction Entrapment and Hair Entanglement/Entrapment.*" The Safety Compendium is scheduled to be published in December 2004.

"This board found the information compelling. I thought they [the TAC group] were fair and listened to what was presented. They made a wise judgment to maintain the standard as it is. Everything is working well with the vent tubes," said Dr. Rowley.



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“If a main drain gets blocked, the vacuum from the pump will draw the water, then air, from the vent tube, causing the pump to cavitate. This happens immediately and cannot be duplicated by a mechanical or electro-mechanical device. I have tested vent lines first hand in the many scientific tests we conducted when I was the test subject in suction entrapment experiments. When my body was used to block the main drain, I literally floated off the drain when it was equipped with a vent line. A vent line with some simple design requirements protects people from body and limb entrapment because it gives the pump another place to draw from in the very unlikely event that two main drains, each fitted with anti-entrapment covers, are somehow both blocked,” added Dr. Rowley.

Dan Johnson, President of The Florida Swimming Pool Association, remarked at what an extraordinary effort was made on the part of many people in the industry. “We were very well prepared and as professional as ever. Bill Rowley is a consummate professional. The TAC understood clearly that it is inappropriate to eliminate vent lines from the code. They remain committed to understanding entrapment and finding ways to prevent these potentially dangerous events,” he commented.

“This is a great example of how research funded by the National Swimming Pool Foundation® benefits code officials and industry members to make the right decisions to protect the public,” concluded Dr. Rowley. Thomas M. Lachocki, CEO for NSPF®, said, “We are pleased to help fund Dr. Rowley’s work throughout the last 30 years. It’s comforting to know that the darkness of indecision can be lighted by his work.”

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®) is a non-profit organization committed to improving public health by encouraging people to exercise in aquatics and by protecting people who go into the water. This is done through research and through educational programs like the Certified Pool and Spa Operator® training and the Aquatic Health™ Conference. The Florida Swimming Pool Association serves as the coordinating organization for the 17 chapters of the National Spa and Pool Institute in Florida. Member companies consist of swimming pool/spa builders, service companies, retail stores, manufacturers, distributors and firms allied with the aquatics industry.

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