



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 20, 2018

SUMMER BRINGS SWIMMING POOL DANGERS; CHILDREN AGES 1-4 AT GREATEST RISK *County, municipalities enforce safety regulations*

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – Every day, about 10 people in the United States die from unintentional drownings. Of these, two are children 14 or younger. Children ages 1-4 have the highest drowning rate and most of those occur in home swimming pools. These are startling statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a reality that hits home every summer.

In unincorporated St. Charles County and all area municipalities, national standards are used to place regulations and requirements on swimming pools of all types for the safety of our residents and guests. For example, did you know that doors with direct access to the pool need to be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when it's opened? Did you know that pools, hot tubs or spas more than 24 inches deep require a 4-foot-high barrier around the pool area or yard?

“There are times when residents see code enforcements as a hindrance,” says Jared Agee, Division Director for St. Charles County’s Building and Code Enforcement. “Our intent, though, is to make certain our residents are safe. Pools, hot tubs and spas can be hazardous, and following the regulations is a first step in ensuring the safety of family and friends.”

St. Charles County requires a building permit for both above-ground and in-ground pools, as well as for outdoor spas and hot tubs. Regulations for contractors, barriers, fencing, gates, alarms, locks, pumps, electricity and more are outlined in a document available on the County’s website at sccmo.org/PoolTubSpaPermitInfo.

Pool owners can help make swimming pools safe and accident-free this summer. Residents who have questions, or want to report a code violation, can contact the Community Development Department’s Division of Building and Code Enforcement at 636-949-7345.

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About St. Charles County:

Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit www.sccmo.org.