



SUBJECT: Swimming Pool Alert – Vacuum Vents

RECIPIENTS: All Schools

ISSUE DATE: REF:

Sept 2012

HSB 15

Unprotected vacuum vents in swimming pools



1) Vacuum vent cover



2) Vacuum “vent” cover under the water line

Incident Overview:

We would like to bring your attention to a recent incident which resulted in a child’s limb being “sucked” into a vacuum vent as a result of its protective cover not being replaced. The force of the suction resulted in staff having to enter the water to remove the child’s limb from the vacuum vent.

Current Practice

For some **cleaning processes** in swimming pools a vacuum hose is attached to a vacuum vent under the water line. By removing the vent cover (Fig.1) located on the wall of the swimming pool (Fig.2) and attaching the vacuum hose the swimming pool operators are able to vacuum up solid waste debris from the bottom of the pool through the hose and out of the pool.

Action Required

All LCC Pool Operators MUST- review risk assessments, considering the consequences of vacuum vents being left turned on and un-protected. A rigorous risk assessment and safe system of work should be implemented for the use of vacuum vents to prevent a re-occurrence of a similar incident.

Users of swimming pools should use this safety alert as general information and awareness of the hidden dangers from swimming pools which rarely present themselves but when they do could have grave consequences.

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Mouchel Safety Adviser on 01522 836714 or Corporate Health and Safety on Ext 55917