



CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 657 Guilford, CT 06437-0657 (203) 453-2063

**CONNECTICUT BUILDER'S LICENSE PROGRAM
MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010
10:30 A.M.**

GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS AL RIZZO, AND WITH ME IS ROB ROMANO. WE BOTH ARE OWNERS OF SWIMMING POOL COMPANIES. I HAVE BEEN IN THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING POOLS FOR OVER 55 YEARS. I WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION IN 1967, AND SERVED AS ITS FIRST PRESIDENT. I ALSO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHEAST REGION IN 1983. I'VE BEEN A MEMBER OF OUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1958, AND SERVED AS EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE BUILDER'S COUNCIL FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS. TODAY, I AM HERE TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 5230, AAC THE LICENSING OF SWIMMING POOL BUILDERS.

OUR ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTED THIS BILL BECAUSE IN CT TODAY, ALL THAT IS NEEDED TO BE A POOL BUILDER, IS TO REGISTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AS A HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR. NO EDUCATION IS NEEDED AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, NO CONTINUING EDUCATION IS REQUIRED.

WITH THE HELP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION (DCP) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP), WE WORKED OUR WAY THROUGH "GAS BANDS" AND "WATER BANDS". WE'VE BEEN WORKING SINCE THE 60'S TO PROFESSIONALIZE OUR INDUSTRY. WE'VE DEVELOPED STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SERVICING POOLS. WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION TO COMBAT BAIT AND SWITCH ADVERTISING. APPROXIMATELY 15 YEARS AGO, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING SERVICE COMPANIES AND THEIR EMPLOYEES LICENSED. THE ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS OF EDUCATING, IS MORE STRINGENT THAN THE STATE REQUIREMENTS. SAFETY IS TAUGHT ON A YEAR-ROUND BASIS, AND PRACTICED DAILY. THIS IS ALL WELL AND GOOD FOR POOLS BUILT IN THE PAST AND BEING SERVICED BY PROPERLY EDUCATED JOURNEYMEN (SP-2). THE SWIMMING POOL INDUSTRY IS CONSTANTLY EVOLVING AND TECHNOLOGY CHANGING. MORE IMPORTANT OR MOST IMPORTANT, IS THE SAFETY OF THE CONSUMERS. FOR THAT PAST 5 YEARS ALONE, THERE HAVE BEEN FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS PASSED, TO HELP PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM SUCTION ENTRAPMENT.

WE NEEDED TO MAKE SURE OUR COMPANIES AND ALL SWIMMING POOL BUILDERS, ARE EDUCATED TO THIS HIGHER STANDARD. THERE IS A NEED TO EDUCATE POOL COMPANIES TO THE CONSTANT CHANGING OF CODES AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION. AS LONG AS POOL BUILDERS ARE MEMBERS OF OUR ASSOCIATION, WE WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH CONTINUAL EDUCATION. BUT, THERE ARE A LOT OF POOL BUILDERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF OUR ASSOCIATION, AND SOME COMPANIES WHO ARE NOT EVEN REGISTERED; THUS WE CANNOT MANDATE THEM TO KEEP UP WITH CONTINUAL EDUCATION. AS BUILDER'S COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN, IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO WRITE THREE (3) CONSTRUCTION MANUALS, ON THE PROPER AND SAFE WAY TO BUILD POOLS. THE LAST EDITION WAS PUBLISHED IN 2008, AND IS CONSIDERED "THE BIBLE" OF THE POOL INDUSTRY. I HAVE A COPY HERE AND HAVE ALSO GIVEN A COPY TO SENATOR COLAPIETRO. FROM THESE MANUALS, WE TEACH AND EDUCATE NEW POOL BUILDERS. AFTER 2 YEARS OF STUDYING AND ON THE JOB TRAINING, AND SEVERAL WEEKS OF IN-CLASS WORK, YOU ARE GIVEN A TEST AND IF PASSED, RECEIVE THE TITLE OF "CERTIFIED BUILDING PROFESSIONAL" (CBP). IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THIS TITLE, YOU NEED 8 HOURS OF CONTINUAL EDUCATION EACH YEAR.

THE REASON I AM BRINGING THIS UP, IS THAT, THE EDUCATION PROCESS, FORMATS, INSTRUCTION MANUAL AND TESTING, ARE ALREADY IN EFFECT AND ARE BEING USED IN OUR INDUSTRY. THIS ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO EXPEND MONEY TO SET UP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

IF YOU PASS THIS BILL, IT WILL BE A WIN, WIN SITUATION FOR CONSUMERS AND THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

1. PROTECTING THE CITIZENS
2. RAISING MONEY THROUGH FEES FOR THE LICENSE.

I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE LAST PAGE TITLED
“WARNING DROWNING HAZARD”.

**AS THE OWNER OF A POOL BUILDING COMPANY,
I FULLY ENDORSE THIS PROGRAM.**

THANK YOU!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALBERT RIZZO

ALBERT RIZZO, CBP, CSP
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION

WARNING

Drowning Hazard



Avoid Drain Covers



Avoid Body Entrapment



Avoid Evisceration



Avoid Hair Entanglement



Avoid Limb Entrapment

- **Never play or swim near drains or suction fittings. Your body or hair may be trapped causing permanent injury or drowning.**
- **Never enter the pool or spa if a suction fitting or drain cover is loose, broken, or missing.**
- **Immediately notify the pool/spa owner or operator if you find a drain cover loose, broken or missing.**

For further consumer awareness information, visit the website of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/363.pdf and www.theapsp.org.

Sales Office:
3388 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111
(860) 666-1531
1-800-801-SWIM
Fax (860) 666-0790

Website <http://www.rizzopools.com>
Email rizzo@rizzopools.com



Rizzo Construction Pool Company



Service & Construction:
388 Stamm Road
Newington, CT 06111
(860) 667-2214
(860) 246-3756
Fax (860) 667-9244