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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Safety

MADISON – During week three of Building Safety Month the Alliance for Regulatory Coordination joins the International Code Council in encouraging you to be aware of water safety.

Clean water is the world's most precious commodity. The [World Health Organization estimates](#) as of June 2019, 785 million people lacked even a basic drinking-water service, including 144 million people who are dependent on surface water. Building, plumbing and green codes help guard water for future generations through proper construction, conservation and safe disposal.

Code officials are vigilant protectors of our water supply. Because of their dedicated service, you can turn on the tap in your home and draw sufficient, clean water. They take nothing for granted, so you can.

Since 1914, Wisconsin has had a statewide plumbing code to help protect drinking water quality and ensure the proper drainage, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Wisconsin licensed plumbers work day in and day out to protect our water supply by designing and installing plumbing systems that meet, and often times exceed, the Wisconsin Plumbing Code.

As a homeowner or renter, you need to pay attention to the water supply to your home even if your community offers water and sewage treatment. If there are faulty or no backflow protectors in your home, cross-contamination can happen even while residents are filling their backyard swimming pools, drawing some of the pool's chlorine into the home.

Water Efficiency

Water conservation and efficiency has become increasingly important in recent years due to water scarcity, droughts and water contamination in many areas of the world.

The Code Council and the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) partnered on a water ratings standard, known as [HERSH20](#), that builders can use in the U.S. to evaluate and market a

home's water usage efficiency. Real estate agents are beginning to take notice of the value of such water efficiency ratings, in areas where access to adequate potable water may be a concern.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) [WaterSense Program](#) is a major water efficiency initiative based in the U.S. This important initiative was developed to help consumers identify water efficient products that meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance. Since its creation in 2006 through the end of 2018, WaterSense has helped Americans save a cumulative 3.4 trillion gallons of water and more than \$84.2 billion in water and energy bills, according to the EPA. Additionally, the use of WaterSense labeled products saved 462.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Swimming Pool Safety

During warm weather seasons, homeowners and renters should take the time to check their outdoor areas for potential safety hazards. Proper inspections now can help to keep your family and friends safe in the future.

Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death for children under the age of five. Practice constant, adult supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas. And, if you're considering a swimming pool purchase, contact your local Building Department first to determine exactly what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.

The Code Council supports drowning prevention and has a close partnership with the [National Drowning Prevention Alliance](#).

[Pool Safely](#) is a national public education campaign that works with partners around the country, including the Code Council, to reduce child drownings and entrapments in swimming pools and spas. [Take the pledge](#) and get a free pool safety kit.

The [Alliance for Regulatory Coordination](#) is a consortium of 24 business, professional, trade and advocacy organizations involved in building design, construction and regulatory services in Wisconsin. The Alliance seeks regulatory services provided in the most efficient manner possible to effectively promote the health, safety and welfare of Wisconsin citizens and visitors.

The [International Code Council](#) is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes.