

### NCDOL Issues Pool Safety Hazard Alert

As pools across the state begin to open for the summer season, the N.C. Department of Labor is urging residents to make themselves more aware of potential life-threatening electrical hazards around pool areas. To help increase public awareness of this issue, the department issued a pool safety hazard alert to the public, which can be viewed at [www.nclabor.com](http://www.nclabor.com).

On Labor Day weekend in 2016, a fatality occurred at a swimming pool in Raleigh, when the water became electrified due to a faulty water-pump connected to a deteriorated electrical system. The electrical system had not been tested or inspected for about three decades. This incident prompted a review of the safety requirements and recommendations swimming pool operators should use when dealing with electricity around pools.

"We want to ensure that people feel completely safe when they visit their swimming pools," said Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry. "Pools are meant to be a safe and fun experience for families, but swimmers should be aware of all of the potential risks, including hazards involving electricity."

The Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Division will periodically deliver alerts following an event, in an effort to prevent additional incidents from occurring. Some counties in the state have since recommended that pool operators within their jurisdictions conduct electrical inspections at swimming pool facilities to ensure no hazards are present. N.C. health law requires inspections at swimming pools, but these inspections do not currently include electrical equipment. A new state law, however, is currently being considered by the General Assembly to address this issue.

"There are many community pools that were initially built in the 1970's and 1980's that are still in use across the state. Building codes do not currently require that electrical equipment installed in prior years meet current code unless a system is replaced," said Kevin Beauregard, director of the Occupational Safety and Health Division. "As we enter Memorial Day weekend, which traditionally marks the beginning of the pool season in many areas, we hope that this information may be helpful in preventing a similar tragedy in our state."

### Anson County in the Revolutionary War

Viewing the Anson County flag informs that the county was created by the legislature of the state in 1750. Thus, the county was in existence some twenty-five years before the Revolutionary War broke out. While it is true that early in the war most of the action took place in the North, the Southern colonies and counties had to prepare and join in the action.

Thomas Wade (1720-1786), whose family was originally from England, moved to Anson County in 1770 as a merchant. The Provincial Congress, meeting in Hillsborough in the summer of 1775, appointed him as Colonel of Militia for the Salisbury District, one of six such districts in the state. He was also put in charge of collecting supplies for the patriot cause. These included salt, shoes, cattle and other food for the troops. When Wade married Patrick Boggan's sister Jane the two men became brothers-in-law. They both helped in supplying American colonial forces in the North during the early years of the war. The Boggans came to America from Ireland.

South Carolina was overrun by the British after the fall of Charleston in May of 1780. Wade and Gen. Henry W. Harrington were alerted to raise militia and await Continental troops from the North. Harrington's plantation was on the east side of the Pee Dee River near the state line (part of today's Richmond County). Anson County saw many foraging parties, lying as it did on the Cheraw to Salisbury Road as well as the Wilmington to Charlotte Town Road.

Colonel Wade and a Captain Culp (of SC) were bringing a wagon train of salt and other commodities when they were ambushed by a band of Tories. In the melee one of the young boys helping with the wagons had his head split open by a broadsword. Wade, Boggan and Culp swore vengeance upon the Tories in the state and surrounding areas.

Their militia units attacked some Tories in what is now Richmond County, whipping one until he revealed the names of others involved in the attack on that earlier wagon train. Several were arrested and some were tortured. About sunset Wade and Boggan ordered that the captured Tories be put to death by splitting their skulls. When this did not work several were shot.

General Horatio Gates, a former British officer who had moved to America and became a general for the patriots, crossed into Anson County at Maske's Ferry (later called Stanback Ferry) near the site of Riverdale Plantation. Gates was on his way to battle British General Cornwallis at Camden, South Carolina, which was a major British victory in August 1780.

General Nathaniel Greene, when appointed by George Washington in late 1780 to fight the British troops in the Southern states, faced a big challenge. His activities in North Carolina included small skirmishes up and down the Pee Dee River. He promoted Patrick Boggan (1725-1817) to captain. He also fought the British, led by Cornwallis, at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781, the war's largest battle in North Carolina. Although Greene did not win the battle, he destroyed one-fourth of the British troops, causing Cornwallis to retreat and surrender later that year. Wade and his band of militia helped by defeating a Tory force near Red Springs that October. Some called Greene "the man who saved the South."

When the county seat was moved to its present location it was named New Town, but later named Wadesborough in honor of Thomas Wade's service in the war. He also served in the state senate in the sessions of 1782-1785. He was elected

to another term, but died in 1786 before he could take office. Wade was buried on his land near the location of Anson's first courthouse at the Pee Dee River, but the grave is probably now under the present Blewett Falls Lake.

Patrick Boggan, who lived to be 92, owned more than 1,000 acres. After his wife died, he lived with his daughter, Eleanor Hammond, in the house he had given her and her husband (now owned by the Historical Society). *By Ken Goins. Goins was a history teacher for many years at Anson High School.*

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