



Clay County Fire Rescue Pool Safety - 2011

Parents Pool Safety Facts

Last year there was an increase in drowning or near drowning of children from infancy to 6 years old. Visit <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/healthtips/safetywater.html> for more information on water safety.

Water Safety = Child Safety

Drowning Is Preventable!

Drowning Prevention Water Safety Tips

Supervision:

88% of children who drowned were under the supervision of a family member. When you have a water addition in your yard, **supervision** is defined not only by being in the care of another individual, but by having the **child in your direct line of sight**. Adults need to *actively supervise* children around water.

If a child is missing anywhere in or around your house or yard, always check the pool first. Seconds count!

Pool Barriers:

Make sure you have a barrier between your pool and all access points from your home. A removable Safety Fence has proven to be the safest barrier you can provide to protect your children, along with active adult supervision.

Designated Pool Watcher:

The designated pool watcher is not a participant in the festivities. Whether it is a hired individual or a family or friend volunteer, a Designated Pool Watcher is doing just that — *watching the pool, watching the children. Nothing else!*

Toys Left in the Pool:

Never leave a ball or any other toy floating in the pool. Tragedies have occurred when a child gets to a pool area unattended and they reach out to grab the toy and fall in.

Swimming Lessons:

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests a child should learn how to swim at the age of 4.

Drowning Prevention Water Safety Tips (Continued)

Most drowning and near drowning occur when a child accidentally falls into a pool or is left alone in a tub. Remember, it takes only an inch of water and a few moments for a child to drown. Follow these water safety rules and make sure your children know them and observe them at all times.

- If a child is missing, ***immediately look in the pool and/or spa first.***
- Never leave a child alone in a pool, spa, beach or tub - **not even for a second.** If you must leave for any reason, take the child with you.
- Enclose your pool and spa with a fence or wall. All gates should have a spring lock, self-closing and self-locking mechanism. The inside latch should be above the reach of toddlers and young children. Keep pool and spa areas locked to prevent unsupervised access.
- Consider extra layers of protection such as safety fences, safety covers and alarms on doors and windows leading to the pool. However, do realize these devices are not foolproof and there is no substitute for adult supervision.
- When using safety fences, remove chairs, toys or other items that children could use to climb over the fence.
- When using safety covers, fully remove before using the pool, replace them promptly after use and remove standing water after rains.
- Teach your child pool or spa safety habits: no running, pushing, dunking or jumping on others; no diving or jumping in shallow water.
- Don't rely solely on plastic inner tubes, inflatable arm bands or other toys to prevent accidents.
- Keep toys, especially tricycles or wheel toys away from the pool or spa.
- Don't allow anyone of any age to swim without a 'spotter" nearby. Examples of safety behavior by adults are important for young children.
- Don't permit playful screaming (false alarms) for help; a real emergency could go unrecognized.
- Teach your child the best way to get out of the pool or spa quickly.
- Keep emergency reaching and throwing aids in a stationary position on both sides of the pool.
- Don't allow your child to swim immediately after a heavy meal.
- Don't allow swimming during thunderstorms.
- Don't allow glass in the pool or spa area.
- Enroll children over three in swimming lessons taught by qualified instructors.
- Teach your swimmers never to dive into unknown bodies of water or from the sides or shallow ends of pools. Wade in first to test depth.
- Both you and your children should learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) as soon as possible.
- Have a portable or cell phone at the pool or spa. Teach your children how to dial the 9-1-1 emergency system.

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