Drowning Prevention

Throughout the summer season, many Californians enjoy activities involving swimming at a pool, river, waterpark or beach. Careful vigilance can prevent tragedy, especially drowning.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about ten people die from unintentional drownings every day in the United States. Drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children ages five and under, with an average of 54 new deaths per year in California.

Additionally, children who survive a near-drowning incident often suffer permanent brain damage. The California Department of Developmental Services currently provides services to 755 survivors of near-drowning accidents who require lifelong supports for their disabilities.

Knowing how to prevent drowning is a critical step in keeping children safe and helping them live to their full potential. I urge Californians to enjoy summer fun, but to follow safety steps, such as teaching children swimming skills, providing constant adult supervision of children in and around water, and providing the protection of fences, latches, poles and personal flotation devices.

Sincerely,

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
DROWNING IS SILENT

Did you Know?

2/3 of fatal drownings occur between May and August for most age groups.

<5 Children under age 5 are at a higher risk of drowning in a pool.

68% In general, Boys are two times more likely to drown in a pool than girls.

DROWNING IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR TODDLERS 1-4 YEARS OLD

There are NO WARNING SOUNDS or splashing sounds associated with a drowning accident.

What can you do?

Swimming Pools
Install Alarms
Layers of Protection
Eye
Never Leave a Child Alone Near Water
Touch

Swimming pools in backyards account for over half of the 54 drowning deaths of children 0-5 years old each year.
Install alarms on house doors and windows leading to a pool area.
Layers of protection include adult supervision, fences, gates, latches, safety pool covers, alarms, education, throwing aids, and rescue techniques.
Adults should keep a constant eye on children in or near any water including bathtubs, buckets, toilets, ponds, spas, and pools.
Never leave a child alone near water. Check the pool first if a child is missing.
Designate an adult to be close enough to reach and touch the child.