

Facts about Swimming Pool Drowning Accidents:

The National Safety Council reports:

- There are over 7,000 drowning deaths nationally each year. Drowning accidents are the leading cause of death and injury of children under 5 years of age.
- Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death among children under the age of 15. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- More than 80% of the drownings occur in residential pools or spas.
- Each year 5000 children under the age of 14 are hospitalized for near drowning events. Of these, as many as 20% suffer severe and permanent disabilities.
- Healthcare costs for each near drowning event range from \$75,000 for emergency room services to \$180,000 per year for long term care.
- More than 90% of parents who lose a child to drowning end up divorcing. Prevention is the key for protecting our children, grandchildren and families from the risks of drowning.
- Nationwide, about 250 children under the age of 5 drown each year. Most of those incidents occur in backyard pools and studies have shown that usually an adult was nearby, but not watching the child when they fell in the pool.
- Drowning is the 4th leading cause of accidental death in the United States, claiming 4,000 lives annually. Approximately one-third is children under the age of 14. (American Institute for Preventive Medicine)
- A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone. (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- A swimming pool is 14 times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child age 4 and under. (Orange County California Fire Authority)
- For every child who drowns, four are hospitalized for near drowning. (American Academy of Pediatrics)

- **An estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to near-drownings each year; 15 percent die in the hospital and as many as 20 percent suffer severe, permanent neurological disability. (Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention)**
- **It is estimated that for each drowning death, there are one to four nonfatal submersions serious enough to require hospitalization. Children who still require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the time they arrive at the emergency room have a poor prognosis, with at least half of survivors suffering significant neurologic impairment. (American Academy of Pediatrics)**
- **Of all preschoolers who drown, 70 percent are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning and 75 percent are missing from sight for five minutes or less. (Orange County, CA, Fire Authority)**
- **In 10 states - Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington - drowning surpasses all other causes of death to children age 14 and under. 86 percent of children who die are found after 10 minutes. Nearly all who require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) die or are left with severe brain injury. (CDC) (Orange County, CA, Fire Authority)**