

Children Drown without a Sound!

Children drown without a sound. Drowning is a quiet event. There is no splashing, no screaming, and no noise at all.

- **Drowning** is one of the leading causes of unintentional or accidental injury-related **death to children ages 1-4** years old in Riverside County.
- Over 73% of all drowning and near-drowning incidents occur in **homes and backyard pools**.
- A submerged child can lose consciousness **in less than 2 minutes-the time it takes to answer a phone** - and sustain permanent **brain damage in only 4-6 minutes**.
- Children under the age of five have **no fear of water** and no concept of death. Water is associated with play.
- Remember, it takes very little water for a child to drown. **Less than one inch of water** is all it takes to cover the mouth and nose of a toddler.
- **June was the busiest month** for drowning related 9-1-1 calls in 2007.
- Riverside County had **19 drowning deaths in 2007**, with 11 victims being children.

PREVENTION TIPS:

- **SUPERVISE!** Never leave a child alone near a pool or spa, bathtub, pond, toilet, bucket of liquid, or any standing water.
- Assign an adult Water Watcher to keep their eyes on the water at all times.
- Do not allow children to play near the pool or spa.
- Keep toilet lids down. Install safety latches on toilet lids to prevent toddlers from opening and playing in the toilet.
- Empty wading pools immediately after use and store upside-down.
- Bath rings are only bathing aids, not personal floatation devices.
- Never rely on devices or swimming lessons to protect children without supervision.
- American Academy of Pediatrics advises against swim lessons until the 4th birthday.
- *Never drink alcoholic beverages before or during swimming or when supervising children.*

BE PREPARED

- Learn CPR & First Aid
- Know your neighborhood and the homes your child visits. Is there a pool? Is it properly protected? If the children will be swimming, who will be supervising them?
- Learn how to swim and learn proper rescue techniques.
- Keep rescue equipment at or near the pool. Do NOT use air-filled swimming aids (such as water rings) in place of life preservers. These devices can give parents and children a false sense of security, which may increase the risk of drowning.
- Keep a portable telephone and emergency phone numbers nearby.

WEBSITES FOR WATER & POOL SAFETY

www.rivcoips.org

Riverside County Children's Prevention Network

www.riversidecounty.redcross.org

American Red Cross in Riverside County

www.drowningpreventionalliance.com

National Drowning Alliance

www.safekids.org

Safe Kids Worldwide

www.cpsc.gov

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

www.americanheart.org

American Heart Association

www.abcpoolsafety.org

ABC Pool Safety