

Save A Life... **PREVENT DROWNING**

Many drowning or near-drowning incidents occur when a child accidentally falls into a swimming pool. But accidents can happen anywhere — at a vacation home or one's own home. Help prevent an avoidable tragedy and loss of a precious life. Take action today.

Fast Facts

- Drowning is the #1 cause of death for children under five in Florida.
- Drowning is 100% preventable. Teach young children comprehensive drowning prevention strategies.
- Drowning occurs most in residential swimming pools.
- Drowning can occur with a momentary lack of supervision. Drowning can happen within minutes of a person's head going under water; leaving very little time for someone to help.



This child has been taught the "rollback & float" technique as part of a drowning prevention program.

Prevention Tips

Taking these simple steps may avoid a potential drowning:

- Install a pool fence that is at least five feet high and at least twenty inches from the water's edge around the entire pool.
- Ensure that the gates and doors to the exterior of house leading to the pool or spa have self-closing, self-latching closures (placed 54 inches above ground) and open outward away from the pool.
- Install alarms on the pool, doors, windows and or gates around the pool area. Wristband Personal Immersion Alarm Systems and Pool Guard Water Motion Sensors are available at local pool stores.
- Check the closures, pool fence or other safety measures regularly and never prop open doors or gates.

Effective prevention steps are necessary measures to help avoid a potential drowning, but there is no substitute for supervision.

*The majority of
parents think
it could never
happen to their family.*

Pool Safety Tips

- Always supervise children near a pool. Even children that have had swimming lessons should always be watched. A floatation device does not substitute for supervision.
- Teach children how to handle themselves in the water before you encourage them to play in it. Swimming lessons that include survival skills provide an extra layer of protection.
- Set firm rules for all water related activities. "Tough love" may save your child's life.
- Instruct babysitters about the potential hazards to young children in and around swimming pools and the need for constant supervision.
- Remove the pool cover completely before entering the pool, since children may become entrapped under it.
- Remove the steps to spas when not in use.
- Place tables and chairs well away from the pool fence to prevent children from climbing into the pool area.
- Keep toys away from the pool area. Young children playing with them could accidentally fall into the water while playing or trying to retrieve a toy that has fallen into the water.
- Have a telephone at the poolside to avoid having to leave children unattended in or near the pool to answer it elsewhere. Keep emergency numbers next to the phone.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).



This important message is from the:
City of Marco Island
50 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, Florida 34145

Fire-Rescue Department
1280 San Marco Road
Marco Island, FL 34145
239-389-5040

Police Department
51 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, FL 34145
239-389-5050