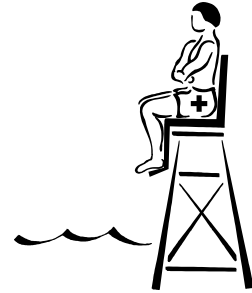


Water Safety



True Story

A 2-year-old boy was at a family barbeque. Family members started a search when they noticed he was missing. The child was found face down and unresponsive in a large garden planter that contained six inches of water. A chair left next to the planter provided access for the child. The cause of death was drowning.

-From the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon

The Facts

- Approximately 943 children ages 14 and younger drown each year. More than 60% of them are ages 4 and younger.
- For every child who drowns an additional four are hospitalized for near drowning and 16 are treated in hospital emergency rooms.
- More than half of infant drownings occur in bathtubs.
- More than half of the drownings among children ages 1 to 4 are pool-related.
- Children ages 5 to 14 most often drown at open-water sites (rivers, lakes and oceans).

What You Can Do

- Never leave a child unsupervised in or around water in the home.
- Never leave a child unsupervised, not even for a moment, in or around a swimming pool or spa.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device (PFD) when on a boat, near open bodies of water or when participating in water sports.
- Air filled swimming aids such as "water wings" are not considered safety devices and are not substitutes for PFDs.



Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.