



News Release

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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Using Water Safety Practices during Memorial Day Can Save Lives

With Memorial Day weekend upon us and summer swim season officially opening, the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County encourages parents, caregivers, pool owners and vacationers to make drowning prevention a top priority.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, “nearly 300 children younger than 5 drown in pools and spas each year, and about 3,000 suffer pool or spa-related injuries (including suction/entrapment incidents) requiring attention at hospital emergency rooms.”

Don’t have a loved one become a statistic. Use the following water safety recommendations:

1. Maintain constant adult supervision.
2. Swim in front of a lifeguard at the beach.
3. Install physical barriers around a pool area (i.e. fence) that include self-closing, self-latching gates.
4. Install window and door alarms that sound when breached.
5. Use pool safety covers.
6. Use pool alarms that float on the surface of the pool.
7. Use alarms that go around a child’s wrist and sound if the wrist touches water.
8. Tell children to stay away from pool and spa drains.
9. When at a party, designate an adult WATER WATCHER (using a distinguishable item such as a lanyard or funny hat) for 15-minute intervals. The water watcher’s sole responsibility is to watch the pool area and not read, talk on the phone or engage in other distractions. After 15 minutes, hand over the distinguishable item to another adult for the next watch.

Enjoy your holiday, but remember to pay attention to drowning prevention!

For more information on water safety lessons and water safety/drowning prevention education, please visit the DPC website at www.pbcgov.org/dpc or call 561-616-7068. The coalition is funded by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County.

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