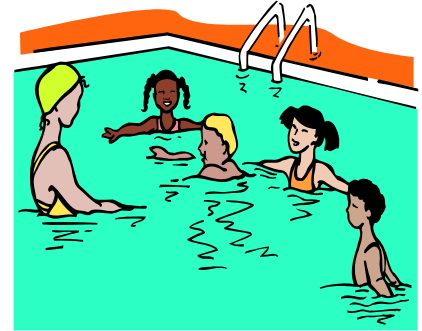




Childhood Drowning

- In Oklahoma from 1999-2003, approximately 220 children less than 15 years of age suffered a submersion injury. More than one third (35%) of these incidents resulted in death.
- Toddlers, 12 to 23 months of age, are at highest risk of a drowning or near-drowning incident.
- Over half of drownings or near-drownings among children less than 5 years of age occur in swimming pools; bathtubs, hot tubs, lakes, ponds, creeks, and rivers account for the majority of the remaining drownings.
- Children less than 5 years of age do not understand the consequences of falling into water and cannot call for help once they are in the water.
- Most children less 5 years of age were seen less than 5 minutes before they were found in the water. Most children under 5 years drown or nearly drown during lapses in adult supervision. Phone calls, getting clothes or towels, chores, or socializing are a few ways in which lapses in supervision can occur.
- Babies and toddlers can drown or nearly drown in small amounts of water; toilets, puddles, and buckets pose a drowning threat to children.



Prevention

- **Constant** supervision of children around water is the best way to prevent childhood drownings. **Never** leave children unsupervised, not even for a minute.
- Teach your children water safety.

Swimming Pools & Hot Tubs

- Restrict entry from your yard and residence.
- Have self-closing and self-latching gates that are at least 5 feet high and have no vertical opening more than 4 inches wide.
- Always make sure you have a good view of the pool/hot tub at all times.
- Always completely remove the pool cover when using the swimming pool.
- Never allow puddles of water to collect on top of the pool cover; small children can drown even in a small puddle!
- Maximum water temperature should be 104°F.
- All drains should be equipped with raised safety grates.
- People under the influence of alcohol and other drugs should not be in a hot tub, or watching children. Alcohol impairs a person's ability to react to an emergency situation.
- An adult should supervise all children!