
City of Rancho Mirage Fire Department

POOL SAFETY

Too often, firefighters hear people say, “It was just a few seconds.” Unfortunately, that’s all it takes for a child to drown. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death to children under age five. Most of these children drown in their own backyard swimming pool, but others drown in buckets, bathtubs, toilets, dog water bowls, canals, and ponds. Small children are top-heavy and they don't have the upper body strength to lift themselves out of one of these dangerous situations. Even if the child survives the incident, they are often left with permanent brain damage. Drowning and near drowning can be prevented and you can help! Below are useful tips to prevent these needless tragedies:

- Post the 911 number on the phone.
 - Have life-saving devices near the pool, such as a pole/hook, or flotation device.
 - LEARN CPR and be able to rescue if needed.
 - DON'T swim if you're tired or have just finished eating.
 - NEVER swim alone, while under the influence of alcohol or medications, or when thunder or lightning is present.
 - NEVER dive into unfamiliar or shallow bodies of water.
 - NEVER allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source.
- If a child is missing, CHECK THE POOL FIRST. Seconds count in preventing death or disability. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom and surface, as well as around the pool area.
 - Use an approved BARRIER to separate the pool from the house.
 - DON'T consider young children to be drown-proof because they have had swimming lessons.
 - DON'T use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision. If you leave the pool area, take the children with you.
 - ALWAYS have a “designated child watcher”. Keep children away from pool filters, as the suction force may injure them or prevent them from surfacing.
 - CHECK the pool area regularly for glass bottles, toys or potential accident hazards. Store all toys outside the pool area, keeping large objects such as tables, chairs, toys, and ladders away from pool barriers.
 - For ABOVE GROUND POOLS, steps and ladders to the pool should be locked or removed when the pool is not in use.
 - KEEP electrical devices away from pools or nearby wet surfaces.
-