



NEWS RELEASE

CLAY FIRE

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7 Barriers for Swimming Pool Safety

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 year to 4 years. With an average of 200 drowning deaths per year, with most occurring in home swimming pools. 65% of those victims were last seen by someone in the home less than 5 minutes before they were found.

50% of non-fatal drowning injuries require hospitalization with many resulting in permanent paralysis.

Clay Fire would like to remind you that by having these seven barriers in place for swimming pool safety, can help reduce the chance of death and when enjoying swimming pools this summer.

1. Always have adults present when children are in the pool. If you invite other children over to swim, be sure an adult from that household comes along to help be a "water watcher". The more eyes on the water the better.
2. Employ inflatable or portable pools after each use, then store upside down.
3. Have a fence surrounding the pool, at least 5 feet tall, with self-closing and latching gates for permanent above and in-ground pools.
4. Keep pool areas free of toys when on one is in the pool. This helps to make the pool less inviting to young children.
5. Enroll small children in swimming lessons.
6. Be sure to have a phone handy in case you need to dial 911.
7. Learn CPR. The more barriers you have in place the safer your pool will be.

Local YMCAs can provide swimming lessons. The Red Cross, Heart Association and Clay Fire can assist with CPR classes.

With a few simple precautions, the entire family can enjoy their backyard swimming pools and all children can be safe from swimming pool accidents.



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