

May 2008

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY •

Owning one is terrific. But let's not forget, they are dangerous! Swimming pools are so dangerous in fact, that 300 children under age 5 die and 2,000 more children under age five visit hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries every year!!!

In some of the nation's sunbelt, drowning has been the leading cause of accidental death in the home of children under 5 years old. The information below can help parents and caregivers provide young children with the protection they deserve.

Each year, nationwide, more than 300 children under 5 years old drown in residential swimming pools, usually a pool owned by their family. In addition, more than 2,000 children in that age group are treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries.

Many communities have enacted safety regulations governing residential swimming pools -- inground and aboveground. It's up to parents to comply with these regulations. Apart from these laws, parents who own pools, can take their own precautions to reduce the chances of their youngsters accessing the family pool or spa without adult supervision.

Following are just a few facts uncovered by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in a comprehensive study of drowning and submersion incidents involving children under 5 years old in Arizona, California, and Florida.

\* Seventy-five percent of the submersion victims studied by CPSC were between 1 and 3 years old; 65 percent of this group were boys. Toddlers, in particular, often do something unexpected because their capabilities change daily.

\* At the time of the incidents, most victims were being supervised by one or both parents. Forty-six percent of the victims were last seen in the house; 23 percent were last seen in the yard or on the porch or patio; and 31 percent were in or around the pool before the accident. In all, 69 percent of the children were not expected to be at or in the pool, yet they were found in the water.

\* Submersion incidents involving children usually happen in familiar surroundings. Sixty-five percent of the incidents happened in a pool owned by the child's family and 33 percent of the incidents happened in a pool owned by friends or relatives.

\* Pool submersions involving children happen quickly. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone. Seventy-seven percent of the victims had been missing from sight for 5 minutes or less.

\* Survival depends on rescuing the child quickly and restarting the breathing process, even while the child is still in the water. Seconds count in preventing death or brain damage.

\* Child drowning is a silent death. There's no splashing to alert anyone.

**SERVICE-PRIDE-INTEGRITY**



**GARDEN CITY POLICE**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**CITY DEPARTMENT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMERGENCY- 911**

**POLICE 793-1700**

**DETECTIVE BUREAU 793-1710**

**CITY HALL 793-1600**

**21ST DIST. COURT 793-1680**

**BUILDING DEPT. 793-1650**

**CITY CLERK 793-1620**

**LIBRARY 793-1830**

**MAPLEWOOD CTR. 793-1850**

**PARKS & REC. 793-1880**

**BARRIERS**

\* The following barrier recommendations are the result of identifying key parameters that typically contribute to child drowning in backyard pools. These recommendations are the minimum steps you can take to make your home a safe place for your child.

\* Barriers are not childproof, but they provide layers of protection for a child who strays from supervision. Barriers give parents additional time to locate a child before the unexpected becomes a reality.

\* Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool. Barriers also may be used to protect children from accessing hot tubs and spas. Use the following recommendations as a guide:

**FENCES AND GATES**

\* Install a fence or other barrier, such as a wall, completely around the pool. If the house is part of the barrier, the doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover. Alarm and cover details are below.

\* The fence or other barrier should be at least 4 feet high. It should have no foot or handholds that could help a young child to climb it.

\* Vertical fence slats should be less than 4 inches apart to prevent a child from squeezing through.

**DOOR ALARMS**

\* If the house forms one side of the barrier, then doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened.

\* Install an alarm that can be temporarily turned off by an adult for a single opening of the door by using a key-pad or switch that is out of a child's reach.

**POWER SAFETY COVER**

A power safety cover is a motor powered barrier that can be placed over the water area. Motor-driven covers easily open and close over the pool. When the power safety cover is properly in place over the pool, it provides a high level of safety for children under 5 years old by inhibiting their access to the water.

**ABOVE GROUND POOLS**

Steps and ladders leading from the ground to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.

**RULES FOR POOLS**

\* Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards to young children and about the use of protective devices, such as door alarms and latches. Emphasize the need for constant supervision.

\* Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. During social gatherings at or near a pool, appoint a "designated watcher" to protect young children from pool accidents. Adults may take turns being the "watcher." When adults become preoccupied, children are at risk.

\* 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 the pool area.

\* Do not allow a young child in the pool without an adult.

\* Do not consider young children to be drownproof because they have had swimming lessons. Children must be watched closely while swimming.

\* Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.

\* Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Babysitters and other caretakers, such as grandparents and older siblings, should also know CPR.

\* Keep rescue equipment by the pool. Be sure a telephone is pool-side with emergency numbers posted nearby.

\* Remove toys from in and around the pool when it is not in use. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

\* Never prop open the gate to a pool barrier.

**SCAM ALERT!**

Be alert! The police department has received complaints of two suspects posing as cement workers. These suspects have stopped senior citizens in Garden City soliciting cement work, porch, driveway, etc. The suspects offer to do work using watery patch cement charging

\$50 per bucket for minor repairs. When the work is done, the suspects explain they used much more cement than anticipated and charge the homeowner thousands! The police department have not been able to ID these suspects yet. If you suspect these persons, contact the police

department immediately. Suspect descriptions: (2) White Males, both between 5'10-6'0, heavy set 200-230 lbs., both with brown hair and clean shaven. Vehicles the suspects have driven are a newer red full size pick up truck and or a newer gray pick up truck. D/Sgt. Brian Aure'

**GARDEN CITY CRIME STATISTICS**

**April Crime Statistics**

**Arson 0**

**Breaking & Entering 12**

**Larceny 21**

**Stolen Vehicles 4**

**Assaults 30**

**Murder 0**

**Robbery 2**

**Fraud 10**

**Runaway 1**

**Drugs 12**

**Property Damage 66**

The crimes listed are **GENERAL** and the statistics of these reported crimes reflect crimes that relate to **RESIDENCES** and **BUSINESSES**.