



Home Pool Safety

Presentation Length: Approximately 30 minutes

Key Terms

Aquatic environment: An environment in which recreational water activities are played or performed.

Emergency action plan: Detailed plans for how everyone should respond in an emergency.

Emergency medical services (EMS) system: A network of community resources and medical personnel that provides emergency medical care to people who are injured or suddenly fall ill.

Lifeguard: A person trained in lifeguarding, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) skills who ensures the safety of people at an aquatic facility by preventing and responding to emergencies.

Rules: Guidelines for conduct or action that help keep one safe at pools and swimming areas.

Supervision: The act of overseeing or taking charge.

Objectives

After completing this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Explain what steps to take to keep their family and guests safe at a home pool.
- Describe the links in the Circle of Drowning Prevention.
- Describe how to secure the pool area.
- Describe the steps in the Chain of Drowning Survival.
- Identify types of emergency equipment that should be available at a home pool.
- Demonstrate how to perform reaching, throwing or wading assists.
- Describe how to make a home pool party as safe as possible.
- Explain how to call for emergency help.

Materials, Equipment and Supplies

- American Red Cross identification
- Easel pad and markers
- Water safety equipment:
 - Water watcher tag (available at <http://www.poolsafely.gov/wp-content/uploads/waterwatcher.pdf>)
 - Reaching pole
 - Ring buoy
 - Throw bags (3)
 - Life jacket
 - Kickboard
- Hula-Hoops or tape to create silhouettes of several people on the floor
- Blanket or mat

- Handouts (one for each participant):
 - Circle of Drowning Prevention
 - Safety Barrier Guidelines for Pool, Hot Tub and Spa Owners
 - Chain of Drowning Survival
 - Emergency Contact Information
 - Home Pool Safety Checklist
- *American Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety*

Leader’s Notes:

Prior to the presentation, prepare an open area that allows demonstrations of reaching and wading assists and demonstration and practice of a throwing assist.

- *For reaching and wading assists, place a mat or blanket on the ground.*
- *For the throwing assist:*
 - *Set up targets of three “distressed swimmers.” You may use tape or Hula-Hoops to mark the silhouettes of the victims.*
 - *Set the targets at a distance that is about 20 feet away from where you will line up the participants.*

Prior to the presentation, prepare three easel pad sheets:

- *Sheet 1: Sketch a home pool setting. Be sure that your drawing depicts the safety tips provided in the participant handout, Home Pool Safety Checklist.*
- *Sheet 2: Write the following words in bold as a template for an invitation. Leave adequate space to allow you to fill in the blanks during the presentation.*

You are invited to attend:

Who:

When:

Where:

Sunscreen will be available but feel free to bring your own.

- *Sheet 3: Write the following information as if it were on the back side of an invitation.*

Special Request

Please review our pool rules with your children before they arrive:

- **Swimming is permitted only when a designated adult with a “water watcher” tag or a lifeguard is supervising the pool.**
- **Please walk on the deck around the pool.**
- **Diving is not permitted in shallow water.**

Presentation Outline

Topic	Length
Introduction	5 minutes
Home Pool Safety Tips	5 minutes
Layers of Protection	2 minutes
The Chain of Drowning Survival	10 minutes
Pool Parties	4 minutes
Calling for Emergency Help	2 minutes
Wrap-Up	2 minutes
Approximate Time for Total Presentation	30 minutes

Leader's Note: This presentation outline includes time to demonstrate three rescue skills and practice one rescue skill. You will need to build additional time into the presentation for each skill added.

Topic: **Introduction**

Time: 5 minutes

Activity

- Welcome participants and thank them for allowing you to speak about this lifesaving information.
- Tell participants that they are going to learn about home pool safety.
- Explain that this session will cover:
 - Information and skills they need to know if they own a home pool or have access to a pool, such as in an apartment or condominium complex.
 - Demonstration and practice of some basic lifesaving techniques that can be used to help someone in trouble in the water.
 - Safety precautions that participants should take when hosting a home pool party.
- Tell participants that the Red Cross and the National Swimming Pool Foundation offer an online course, Home Pool Essentials, which provides more detailed information about home pool maintenance and safety. The course is for anyone who owns or regularly visits a home with a pool. To enroll, go to homepoolessentials.org.
- Distribute brochures that list Red Cross courses offered locally, if available.

Key Points and Discussion

- What types of information and skills do you think you need to know if you own a home pool?

Answer: Responses will vary. Prompt participants to include the following:

- *How to swim*
 - *How to call for emergency help*
 - *First aid, CPR and AED skills*
 - *Rescue skills*
 - *What type of emergency equipment is necessary at a home pool*
 - *How to secure the pool area*
 - *How to care for the pool*
- If you—and all the members of your family—know how to swim, raise your hand.
 - If you have been trained in CPR, raise your hand.
 - Swim lessons and training in first aid, CPR and AED are important skills for everyone. Courses in these lifesaving skills as well as other water safety courses that teach you how to respond in an aquatic emergency are offered by the Red Cross. To enroll in a Red Cross course, go to redcross.org/takeaclass, or contact swimming pools in the local area and ask for Red Cross training.
 - Do not expect that individuals will learn to swim in one set of lessons, or even in one season. Enroll family members in lessons throughout multiple seasons to ensure that they can swim well and handle themselves in most aquatic situations.

Topic: Home Pool Safety Tips

Time: 5 minutes

Key Points

- While home pools create beautiful environments that offer years of fun and activity for families, they can also be a significant threat to children in the home or in the community.
- Most drowning incidents involving children between the ages of 1 and 4 years take place in home swimming pools. Many of these incidents happen very suddenly—about 5 minutes or less after the child goes missing—and while the parents are at home.
- Drowning incidents at home pools are a problem in every state, but in warm weather states where pools are more common, the problem is very serious. In Arizona, California and Florida, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in and around the home for children under the age of 5.
- Make sure you enforce fundamental safety rules at all times at your home pool, including:
 - Teaching your children not to go near the water without you.
 - Making sure children know the pool area is off-limits without constant, active adult supervision.
 - Providing constant, active supervision for children at all times.
 - Posting the rules for your pool and enforcing them without exception.
- You should consult the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) as well as state law and local building codes for pool dimension guidelines to help you establish rules for your pool to ensure safe diving activities. For example:
 - Prohibit all dives into shallow water.
 - Post depth markers and “No Diving” signs as appropriate.
 - Allow dives only off the end of the diving board.
 - Do not allow more than one bounce on the end of the diving board. A person could miss the edge or slip off the diving board.
 - Do not allow running on the diving board or attempts to dive a long way through the air. The water might not be deep enough at the point of entry.
- Now we are going to take a tour of a good example of a home pool and discuss the safety measures that are in place.

Activity

- Show Sheet 1 on the easel pad—the sketch of a home pool area.
- Guide participants through the pool area, pointing out the safety measures that are in place:
 - The pool is completely enclosed with a fence that has a self-closing, self-latching gate.
 - The fence has vertical bars so that it is not easy to climb.
 - All doors or gates leading to the pool have secure locks, including patios, outside access gates and garage door entries.
 - “No Diving” areas are clearly marked.
 - Pool chemicals are stored in a secure area and locked for safety.
 - Pool tiles and deck areas are free of sharp areas or broken tiles.
 - Pool ladders, slides and diving boards are in good condition and free of loose bolts.
 - Drains have anti-entrapment drain covers.
 - Pool covers are completely removed prior to pool use and completely secured when in place.
 - Toys are in good condition and free of broken or sharp edges.
 - Toys are stored and kept away from and out of the pool when not in use.

- Furniture or toys are not left near a fence that would enable a child to climb over the fence.
- An emergency action plan is present to address potential pool emergencies.
- First aid and CPR instructions are posted.
- The emergency telephone number for emergency medical services (EMS) is posted by the telephone. A telephone or a fully charged cordless or mobile phone is kept poolside.
- Basic lifesaving equipment is located near the pool, and family members know how to use it. A reaching pole, rope and life jackets and a well-stocked first aid kit are available.

Leader’s Note: *Point out that if the pool is above grade (aboveground pool), the pool structure itself can serve as the pool barrier if it is over 48 inches in height and does not have any features that could be used as handholds or footholds. However, there needs to be a way to prevent access, such as removing any steps or ladders to the pool or enclosing them inside a locked barrier, so that the pool surface is inaccessible. Since requirements vary in different areas, everyone should contact the local authority for fencing requirements. Pool owners should prevent access to the pool regardless of codes.*

Topic: Layers of Protection

Time: 2 minutes

Key Points

- Homeowners with pools or hot tubs need to take a multi-tiered approach to securing the pool area and minimizing the likelihood that a child will gain unsupervised entry:
 - Enclose the pool area on all four sides using an appropriate barrier system. Pool fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching and should open outward, away from the pool.
 - Always make sure that the gates are latched, and that the latches are out of the reach of children.
 - Keep items away from the barrier (such as furniture) that a child could use to climb up and over into the pool area.
 - Windows and doors leading to the pool area should have locks that are out of the reach of small children.
 - All windows and doors leading to the pool area should have audible alarms.
 - Install pool alarms. These alarms use sensors to detect motion in the water. Underwater pool alarms generally perform better and can be used in conjunction with pool covers. Use remote alarm receivers so that the alarm can be heard inside the house or in other places away from the pool area.

Leader’s Note: *Distribute a copy of the handout, Circle of Drowning Prevention, to each participant.*

- Layers of protection are essential to help prevent drowning. The American Red Cross has established the Circle of Drowning Prevention to help people to remember 5 important points:
 - Provide close and constant supervision to children who are in or near the water.
 - Fence pools and spas with adequate barriers to prevent unsupervised access.
 - Learn swimming and water safety survival skills.
 - Have children, inexperienced swimmers and boaters wear U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jackets.
 - Swim in lifeguarded areas.
- Many states have pool fence laws. Check with the local authorities to find out specific owner responsibilities. One more item to check is your homeowner’s insurance policy. As a home pool owner, make sure your homeowner’s insurance policy covers the pool.

Leader’s Note: *Distribute a copy of the handout, Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools, Hot Tubs and Spas, to each participant.*

Topic: The Chain of Drowning Survival

Time: 10 minutes

Activity

- Distribute a copy of the handout, Chain of Drowning Survival, to each participant. Discuss each link in the chain.
- Explain that a link in the chain of survival is to rescue a person in trouble and remove them from the water without putting yourself in danger.
- Explain that you will demonstrate some techniques to help someone in trouble in the water, then they will have the opportunity to practice these techniques.

Reaching Assists

Activity

- Tell participants that if a victim is close enough, a reaching assist can be used to help the person out of the water. You can use a reaching pole, a kickboard, a life jacket, a foam noodle or any object that can extend your reach. Show participants each of these objects.
- Explain that if there is no equipment available to perform a reaching assist, an arm or leg can be reached out to the person.
- Ask for a volunteer to sit or stand on the mat or blanket you have placed and pretend to be the “victim.”
- Demonstrate a reaching assist with equipment and a reaching assist without equipment. As you demonstrate the skills, say each skill component aloud.

Skill	Skill Component
Reaching Assist with Equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brace yourself on the pool deck, pier surface or shoreline.2. Extend the object to the victim.3. When the victim grasps the object, slowly and carefully pull him or her to safety. Keep your body low and lean back to avoid being pulled into the water.
Reaching Assist without Equipment from the Deck	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brace yourself on the pool deck, pier surface or shoreline.2. Reach with your arm and grasp the victim.3. Pull the victim to safety.
Reaching Assist without Equipment from a Position in the Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hold onto a pool ladder, overflow trough (gutter), piling or another secure object with one hand.2. Extend your free hand or one of your legs to the victim. Do not let go of the secure object or swim out into the water.3. Pull the victim to safety.

Throwing Assist

Activity

- Tell participants that they should use a throwing assist to rescue someone beyond their reach in a pool or open water.
- Explain that to perform a throwing assist, they should throw the victim a buoyant object tied to a line. The victim can then grasp the object and be pulled to safety.
- Tell participants that they should make sure that throwing equipment at their pool is prominently displayed and is easily accessible.
- Show participants the ring buoy and throw bag. Explain that a ring buoy is a common piece of equipment around swimming pools. Throw bags are also commonly used for water rescue.
- Demonstrate a throwing assist using a throw bag. Explain to participants that they will be using throw bags today because they are practicing on land and throw bags are not damaged by repeatedly striking the ground. As you demonstrate the skill, say each skill component aloud.

Skill	Skill Component
Throwing Assist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get into a stride position: the leg opposite your throwing arm is forward. 2. Step on the end of the line with your forward foot. 3. Shout to get the victim's attention. Make eye contact and say that you are going to throw the object now. Tell the victim to grab it. 4. Bend your knees and throw the object to the victim. Try to throw the object upwind and/or up current, just over the victim's head, so that the line drops within reach. 5. When the victim has grasped the object or the line, slowly pull him or her to safety. Lean away from the water as you pull. 6. If the object does not reach the victim, quickly pull the line back in and throw it again. Try to keep the line from tangling, but do not waste time trying to coil it. If using a throw bag, partially fill the bag with some water and throw it again.

- Strongly encourage participants to practice throwing assists at home using the equipment that they have selected for their pool.
- Tell participants that they will now practice this skill.
- Divide the participants into three groups.
- Line the groups up about 20 feet from the preplaced targets.
- Let the participants try to toss the throw bag at the target. Accuracy is rated by tossing the throw bag over the object so that the rope strikes the target.
- The activity is complete when the participants in each group have had the opportunity to toss the throw bag.

Wading Assist

Activity

- Tell participants that if the water is safe and shallow enough (not over the chest), they can wade in to reach the victim.
- Tell participants they should not enter the water if there is a current or if the bottom is soft or they do not know the condition of the bottom.
- Explain that, if possible, they should wear a life jacket when attempting a wading assist and take something to extend their reach.
- Ask for a volunteer to sit or stand on the mat or blanket you have placed and pretend to be the "victim."
- Demonstrate a wading assist. As you demonstrate the skill, say each skill component aloud.

Skill	Skill Component
Wading Assist with Equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take a buoyant object, such as a life jacket or kickboard, to extend out to the victim. 2. Wade into the water and extend the object to the victim. 3. When the victim grasps the object, tell him or her to hold onto the object tightly for support and pull him or her to safety. 4. Keep the object between you and the victim to help prevent the victim from clutching at you in a panic.

Topic: Pool Parties

Time: 4 minutes

Key Points

- Homeowners with pools often choose to host pool parties.
- Home pool owners must take certain steps to make the event as safe as possible.
- It is always important to emphasize safety when hosting others at your home if you own a pool, but it is especially important when your guests include children.

Activity

- Tell participants that you will now complete a fictitious invitation to a home pool party for a boy and his friends to celebrate his seventh birthday.

Leader's Note: Show Sheet 2 on the easel pad (fill-in-the-blank invitation). As you fill in the blanks, discuss the importance of the information you are providing to parents of the partygoers.

You are invited to attend: Johnny's 7th Birthday Pool Party!

- Tell participants that it is important to make sure parents and caretakers of all invited guests are aware that the party is a pool party.

Who: Sally (Mrs. Smith, you are welcome to accompany Sally.)

- Tell participants that they should consider extending the offer to parents to accompany their children because some parents might be uncomfortable sending their children to a pool party due to supervision and safety concerns.

When: Saturday, the 6th, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; swimming from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- Tell participants that, if it is possible, they should have a lifeguard on duty. Even when a lifeguard is on duty, and especially if a lifeguard is not on duty, hosts should assign responsible adults to be "water watchers" and supervise the pool when it is in use.

Where: 1234 Any Street; Any Town, USA

Sunscreen will be available, but feel free to bring your own.

Leader's Note: Show Sheet 3 on the easel pad and read it to participants:

Special Request

Please review our pool rules with your children before they arrive:

- **Swimming is permitted only when a designated adult with a "water watcher" tag or a lifeguard is supervising the pool.**
- **Please walk on the deck around the pool.**
- **Diving is not permitted in shallow water.**

Pool Rules

Key Points and Discussion

- Home pool owners should have rules for their pool. Be sure that your guests are aware of and follow the rules.
- In addition to having the rules posted, consider writing some of them on the invitation. The children's parents can help set the safety stage by discussing the rules with their children even before they arrive at your home.
- Be sure to reinforce the rules to all the guests prior to the swimming portion of the party.
- What are some safety rules you would establish during a pool party?

Answer: Responses should include the following:

- Prohibiting all dives into shallow water
- Walking—no running on the deck
- Not permitting glass in the pool area

- Some additional safety tips to follow whenever hosting guests at your home pool include the following:
 - Do not serve alcoholic beverages to guests who are or will be participating in or helping to supervise water activities.
 - Maintain cleanliness of the water. Water should be chemically treated and tested regularly.
 - Check with your homeowner's insurance company to determine the limits of your coverage. You may need additional coverage for the event. Make sure that parents or caretakers of all invited guests are aware that the party is a pool party.

Providing Appropriate Supervision

Key Points

- Proper supervision is important whenever people are in, on or around the water and is a critical element of a safe pool party.
- One option is to hire a lifeguard. Contact your local parks and recreation department or local swimming pools to get names of Red Cross–trained lifeguards who are willing to lifeguard at private parties.
- It is your responsibility to interview and hire individuals and provide all appropriate rescue equipment.
- Here are the questions you should ask before you hire a lifeguard to supervise your pool party:
 - Do you have current American Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certification (or equivalent)?
 - Do you have a list of references?
 - Do you have a job history list?
 - How much do you charge per hour?
 - Are there any specific pieces of safety equipment we need to provide for you (rescue tube, ring buoy, reaching pole, backboard with head immobilizer, first aid kit)?
 - How do you enforce pool rules?
 - Do you have a list of rules you require while lifeguarding?
 - Are there any accommodations we need to make for you?
- If you choose not to hire a lifeguard, identify or appoint responsible adults to supervise the pool when it is in use. These individuals or water watchers must understand and accept responsibility for monitoring the pool and should be trained in first aid, CPR and water safety.
- Make sure you review your emergency action plan with the lifeguard and water watchers and answer any questions they may have.
- If the swimming portion of the party goes for more than an hour, set rest breaks. This allows guests the opportunity to rest and warm up, as well as provides a break for the lifeguard or person supervising children in the water.
- A lifeguard or water watcher should be at the pool, even during nonswimming hours of the party. This helps to ensure that nobody enters the water unexpectedly.

Activity

- Pass the sample water watcher tag around so participants can look at it.
- Explain that people who have agreed to supervise the pool can wear a tag like this as a visible symbol of the responsibilities they have accepted, and so that they can easily be identified by others.

Topic: **Calling for Emergency Help**

Time: 2 minutes

Key Points and Discussion

- It is important that family members and caregivers know how to call for emergency help.

Leader's Note: *Distribute a copy of the handout, Emergency Contact Information, to each participant. Also, refer back to the Chain of Drowning Survival, reminding participants that calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number is a critical link in the chain.*

- You should complete this form and post a copy near each telephone.
- Why is it necessary to have this information in writing and posted near each telephone?

Answer: *Responses should include the following:*

- The caller will likely be in a state of anxiety when in a situation of calling for emergency help.
- The caller could be someone other than a resident of the home, such as a babysitter or grandparent.

Topic: **Wrap-Up**

Time: 2 minutes

Key Points

- Today we discussed the information and skills you and your family should know if you own a home pool.
- We talked about home pool safety and layers of protection.

Leader's Note: *Distribute a copy of the handout, Home Pool Safety Checklist, to each participant. Encourage participants to take the checklist home and use it to check their pools.*

- You watched a demonstration of reaching and wading assists.
- You practiced skills to safely rescue a victim using a throwing assist.
- We discussed safety measures specific to hosting home pool parties and how to call for emergency help.
- Does anyone have any other questions about any of the topics we covered today?
- Remember to go to redcross.org/takeaclass to enroll in swim lessons; water safety training; and first aid, CPR and AED classes. You can also call swimming pools in your area and be sure to ask for Red Cross training.
- Be sure to download the free Red Cross Swim mobile application, as well as other Red Cross apps that provide lifesaving information on topics such as first aid, tornadoes, hurricanes and more. Download American Red Cross apps directly from the iTunes, Google Play or Amazon Marketplace app stores.

Leader's Notes:

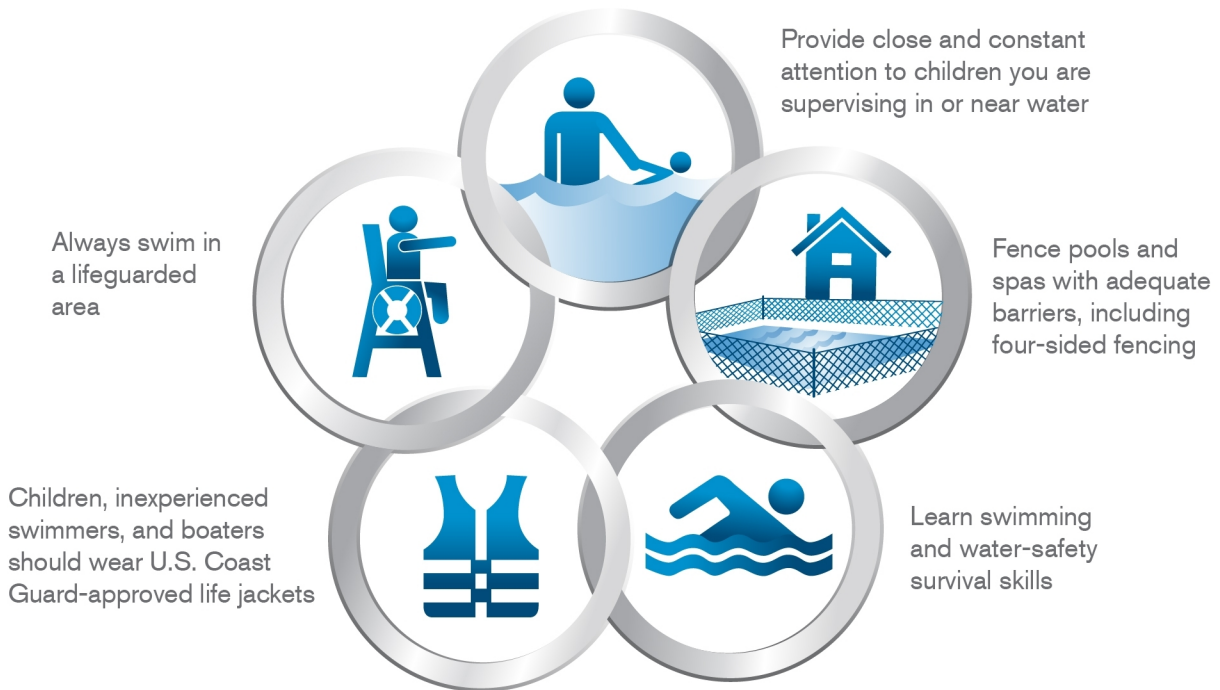
- *Briefly answer any questions and thank participants for their time and participation.*
- *Report your teaching activity and the results of this course to the Red Cross Learning Center.*



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Circle of Drowning Prevention

Layers of protection are essential to help prevent drowning.
Plan ahead for aquatic activities:



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Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools, Hot Tubs and Spas

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends the following safety barrier guidelines for home pools, hot tubs and spas:

- Pool fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching and open outward, away from the pool. The latch should be out of a small child's reach.
- Pool barriers should be at least 4 feet high and enclose the entire pool area. They should not have any features that could be used as a handhold or foothold. Solid barriers should not have any features other than normal construction joinery.
- For most fence designs, spacing between vertical members should not exceed 1¾ inches. The opening on chain link fences should not exceed 1¼ inches.
- Horizontal fence support structures that are less than 45 inches apart should be on the pool side of the fence. On fences with horizontal support structures that are greater than 45 inches apart, the horizontal support structures can be on either side of the fence.
- The space under a pool barrier should not exceed 4 inches.
- Any openings in the barrier should not allow a 4-inch sphere to pass through.
- Above-ground pools (including inflatable "easy-set"-type pools) should have a barrier mounted on top of the pool structure that encloses the entire pool. Steps or ladders to the pool should be removable or enclosed by a locked barrier, so that the pool surface is inaccessible.
- Hot tubs should have a lockable structural barrier that completely encloses the top of the hot tub and will not collapse under the weight of a child.
- It is preferable that the house should not form any side of the barrier.
 - In situations where a house does form one side of the barrier, the doors leading from the house to the pool should be locked and protected with alarms that produce a sound when a door is unexpectedly opened.
 - Alarms should continuously sound for 30 seconds and begin within 7 seconds of opening the door.
- If a child is missing, always look in the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Pool alarms can be used as an added precaution. Underwater pool alarms generally perform better and can be used in conjunction with pool covers. CPSC advises that consumers use remote alarm receivers so that the alarm can be heard inside the house or in other places away from the pool.
- The pool area should be properly illuminated.
- Local building codes, regulations and statutes for pools and spas differ from state to state. Many states have pool fence laws. Pool and spa owners should check with the local authorities to find out specific building codes and owner responsibilities. The publication Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools (Pub. No. 362), is available at no charge from the CPSC Web site (www.cpsc.gov).



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Chain of Drowning Survival

A person who is drowning has the greatest chance of survival if these steps are followed:



Recognize the signs of someone in trouble and shout for help

Rescue and remove the person from the water (without putting yourself in danger)

Call emergency medical services (EMS)

Begin rescue breathing and CPR

Use an AED if available and transfer care to advanced life support



American Red Cross



Emergency Contact Information Sheet

Complete this information and photocopy this form. Post one sheet by each telephone in your home and one in the pool area.

Emergency Telephone Number(s)

Police:

Fire:

Emergency Medical Services:

National Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222

Health Department telephone number:

Family Information

Family name:

Street address:

Home telephone number:

Parents' mobile telephone numbers:

Names of nearest cross streets:

Doctor's name:

Doctor's telephone number:

Neighbor's name:

Neighbor's telephone number:

Hospital name:

Medical insurance information:

Child's name and age:

Child's name and age:

Child's name and age:

Any special medical conditions, including allergies for each child or adult:



Home Pool Safety Checklist

Take a few minutes to inspect your home pool for safety. Use the following checklist as a guide to help you make your pool and surrounding area safe.

- The pool is completely enclosed with a fence with vertical bars (so that it is not easy to climb) that has a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- All doors or gates leading to the pool have secure locks, including patios, outside access gates and garage door entries.
- All doors leading to the pool have audible alarms.
- "No diving" areas are clearly marked.
- Pool chemicals are stored in a secure area and locked for safety.
- Pool tiles and deck area are free of sharp areas or broken tiles.
- Pool ladders, slides and diving boards are in good condition and free of loose bolts.
- Pool covers are completely removed prior to pool use and completely secured when in place.
- Toys are in good condition and free of broken or sharp edges.
- Toys are stored and kept away from and out of the pool when it is not in use.
- Furniture or toys are not left near a fence that would enable a child to climb over the fence.
- An emergency action plan is present to address potential pool emergencies.
- First aid and CPR instructions are posted.
- Emergency telephone number for the EMS system is posted by the telephone. A telephone or a fully charged cordless or mobile phone is kept poolside.
- Basic lifesaving equipment is located near the pool, and family members know how to use it. A reaching pole, rope and life jackets and a well-stocked first aid kit are available.
- Water is clean, clear and properly maintained. Water should be chemically treated and tested regularly. Contact a local pool store or health department for information and instruction.
- All drain covers have anti-entrapment covers.