

WATER SAFETY RESOURCES

DIAL 911 for EMERGENCIES

CPR CLASSES:

St. Joseph's Children's Hospital
www.stjosephschildrens.com 813-870-4747

American Red Cross 877-741-1444

SWIM LESSONS:

City of Tampa Parks and Recreation
(Swim lessons and Lifeguard Training Course)
<http://www.tampagov.net> 813-274-8615

American Red Cross, Tampa Bay Chapter
Log online for a list of swim schools in your area
www.redcrossbc.org 877-741-1444 ext.850

Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay
Water Safety Training course for adults and children
www.bgctampa.org 813-875-5771 ext.3032

Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center
www.MyBSAC.org 813-689-0908

Metropolitan YMCA
www.tampaymca.org 813-224-9622

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

SAFE KIDS Tampa Coalition
Bevin Maynard 813-870-4396

Swim For Life
www.swimforlifefla.org
Mary Batton 813-659-9081

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue
Residential Pool Safety Surveys
813-744-5541
YeakleyV@hillsboroughcounty.org

Tampa Fire Rescue
Residential Pool Safety Surveys
Public Education Office 813-274-8241

Consumer Product Safety Commission
Water Safety Guidelines www.cpsc.gov

United Pool and Spa Association
Home Pool Safety Audit www.upsaonline.com
Jim Manning 813-963-5575

BOAT SAFE

<http://boatsafe.com/kids/index.htm>

LAYERS OF PROTECTION:

www.poolfence.com/product.htm

www.aqua-safe.com/DOCS/products.html

DID YOU KNOW?

- Children under 4 are at a greater risk for drowning. It only takes an inch of water and a few moments for a child to drown. **NEVER allow a small child OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.**
- Nationally, most drowning deaths occur in residential in-ground pools. However, recently in Hillsborough County drowning deaths have occurred in apartment pools and above ground pools.
- Most drowning deaths in Hillsborough County occurred when the child was in the care of grandparents or a babysitter and was **OUT OF SIGHT** for less than 5 minutes.
- More than half of infant drownings (under age 1) occur in bathtubs. **NEVER** leave your child alone in the bathtub. Drownings in this age group also occur in toilets and buckets.
- Boys are 2 to 4 times more likely to drown than girls are. However, girls drown in bathtubs twice as often as boys.
- Black males age 5 to 9 have a swimming pool-related drowning rate 4 1/2 times that of white males. Black males age 10 to 14 have a swimming pool-related drowning rate 15 times that of white males.

WATER SMART TIPS

- **ALWAYS** designate a responsible adult to serve as the "Water Watcher" - a supervisor whose sole responsibility is to constantly observe children in or near the water.
- **NEVER CONSIDER** your child "drown proof," even after swimming lessons. Swimming lessons are no substitute for supervision by a responsible adult.
- **DON'T RELY** on "water wings" or inflatable devices to keep your child afloat. They are not fool proof and no substitute for supervision.
- **TEACH** pool safety rules to all family members
- **KEEP** toys, particularly tricycles or wheel toys, away from the pool or spa. A child playing with these could fall into the water.

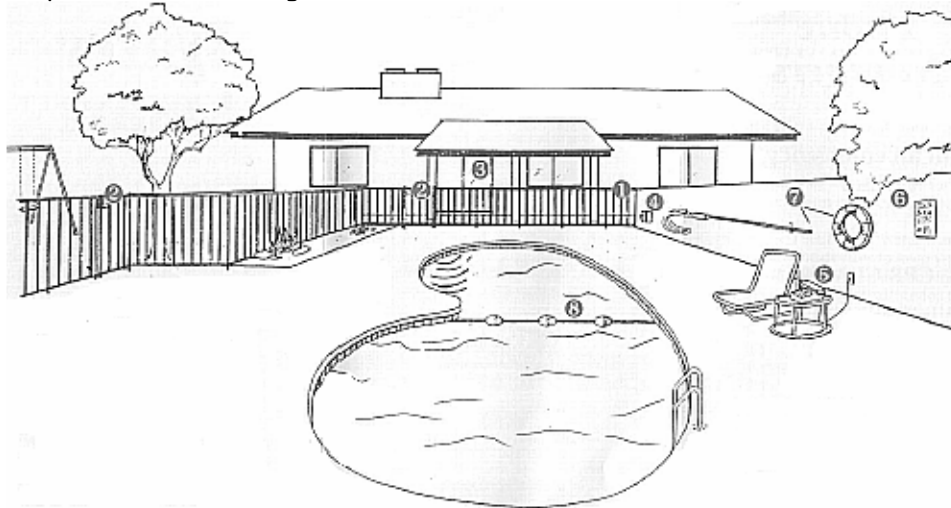
CARETAKER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Have you been trained in CPR?
- ✓ Is the pool gate closed and locked?
- ✓ Are all doors and windows leading to the pool area secured?
- ✓ Is there any way a child could get into the pool, such as squeezing through a hole in the fence?
- ✓ Is there a doggy door leading to the pool area?
- ✓ Is the 9-1-1 emergency number and both the home address and phone number posted on every phone?
- ✓ Be sure to obtain specific permission from parents before allowing anyone to use the pool.

Swimming Pool Layers of Protection

Supervision is the key to preventing child drownings. However, because many of the victims were last seen inside the home in an area that was considered to be safe, we recommend the following additional "layers of protection":

1. Install and maintain an isolation fence that completely separates the swimming pool/spa from the house and play yard. The fence should be a minimum of 4 feet in height. Vertical spacing should not exceed 4 inches. Horizontal supports should be a minimum of 48 inches apart.
2. Gate Latches should be a minimum of 54 inches in height. Spacing should be the same as for the fence. Gates should be self-closing, self-latching and lockable, and open away from the pool. NEVER leave gates
3. Door, Window, and Motion detector type alarms are an additional "layer of protection".
4. A poolside telephone is an essential part of a safe pool environment. Many drownings occur when a caretaker leaves a child alone in a pool to answer a telephone call.
5. Post CPR, safety instructions, and 9-1-1 emergency phone numbers.
6. Rescue equipment should be in good repair and easily accessible.
7. A lifeline should be stretched across the pool to separate the shallow and the deep ends.



Hillsborough County Swimming Pool Ordinance: Swimming pool fencing and barrier requirements shall apply to all swimming pools without regard to when such pools were constructed or erected.

- a. All swimming pools shall be required to be enclosed with approved chain metal fencing or an approved barrier equipped with self-closing and self-latching gate(s) and shall be designed so as to make the swimming pool inaccessible to young children.
- b. All private residential and nonresidential swimming pools shall be required to have such a barrier not less than (4) feet in height.
- c. Public swimming pools shall be required to have such a barrier not less than six (6) feet in height.
- d. Above ground swimming pools may not be fenced if they are four (4) or more feet above ground, if stairs into the pool are retractable, and any pool operational apparatus such as pumps, filters, or heaters cannot be used as makeshift stairs into the pool.
- e. All swimming pools shall be equipped with securely attached suction drain covers or grating.



The strongest weapon we have to protect our children from drowning is prevention!

For more information about water safety and other programs through St. Joseph's Children's Advocacy Center, please call (813) 870-4396.

