

Get water wise... **SUPERVISE!**

Summer is here and kids throughout Illinois are heading to swimming pools, lakes, and “kiddie” pools for fun and relief from the heat. But don’t forget that children are quick and curious, and should be supervised at all times in or near water. In 2002, there were 18 accidental drowning deaths in Illinois. Education and adult supervision could have prevented these deaths. Please use the following safety tips to help protect children from water-related tragedy in the summer months and all year around.

Swimming pools:

- Keep ladders, patio furniture and toys away from above-ground pools. Toddlers are better climbers than you might think!
- Fence in pool and lock the gate. Pool safety covers and alarms provide added protection.
- Young children should wear or use personal flotation devices, but remember that these devices do not replace adult supervision. They could deflate or slip from underneath a child, leaving him in a dangerous situation.
- Remind babysitters and other caretakers not to leave children unattended near or in water.
- Appoint an adult who can swim to watch kids during pool parties.
- Learn CPR and keep rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency numbers near all pools. Seconds count when it comes to preventing death or serious injury.

Baby pools:

- Don’t be lulled into a false sense of security because of the shallowness of baby pools. Did you know that a small child could drown in as little as two inches of water? Children should always be supervised when they are in a baby pool.
- Empty the pool immediately after use and store it upside-down.

Bathtubs:

- Never leave a young child alone in a bathtub.
- Don’t rely on a bathtub seat for safety.
- Don’t allow children to play alone in bathrooms.

Buckets:

- Remember that five-gallon buckets of water pose a threat to babies and toddlers who may topple into them while playing and be unable to free themselves.
- Empty and store all buckets out of children’s reach.