

SUMMER SAFETY TIP!



Did you know that a study according to a Reuters article, a **CHILD DIES IN A PORTABLE POOL EVERY 5 DAYS** during the warm weather months?

Portable pools are readily available in many convenience stores and malls. They are fairly cheap. Many of us buy them up; set them up without really much forethought. I mean, we are really just thinking of how much fun the kids will have....

The study that showed the data focused on portable pools, 18" to 4 feet deep. A child dying every 5 days in something meant for them to have fun in is a tragedy that can be prevented with some preparation and planning.

The number 1 recommendation of course, is adult active, **UNDISTRACTED** supervision. The article talks about "layers of protection". Other layers besides **undistracted** adult supervision are barriers, alarms and other related devices.

In the study, fewer than half (43%) were supervised by adults in the drowning and near drowning. 73 % of them occurred at the home.

Drownings overall represent the 2nd leading cause of injury deaths among young children. There is **NO SECOND CHANCE** for these preventable deaths.

An interesting statistic that was cited is that CPR was administered before local emergency responders arrived in only 15% of the fatalities and only 17% of the near-drownings. People need to learn their CPR skills. CPR is easy to learn. The changes that have been made make it easy to remember and it does make a difference.

Whatcom County Fire #14 would like to remind people to please be vigilant when owning a swimming pool for your child. When not in use, a kiddie pool should be emptied. If it is a larger pool, then a secure barrier should be installed. As the article states, a drowning is quick, it is silent, and it is FINAL.

Please pass these Basic Pool Safety tips on:

- 1. Children should never be near or in a pool unsupervised, even for one moment.**
- 2. Children younger than 5 years of age should be within an arm's length of an adult at all times.**
- 3. There should be an adult (life guard or pool owner) who knows CPR in attendance.**
- 4. Keep a phone nearby. Keep rescue equipment (life preserver or shepherd's hook) available and know where it is.**
- 5. Air-filled "swimming aids" are not a substitute for approved life vests or supervision.**
- 6. Remember, teaching your child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.**

Also, please remember that anywhere there is water such as in bathtubs, toilets, sinks, and even buckets, a drowning can occur. BE VIGILANT!

Some online references:

Source:

Shields B, et al "[Pediatric submersion events in portable above-ground pools in the United States, 2001-2009](#)" Pediatrics 2011; 128: 45-52.

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[PoolSafety.gov](#)

