



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact a [DFPS media specialist](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 23, 2014

Be a Lifeguard this Memorial Day Weekend

DFPS urges all adults to watch kids around water

The long Memorial Day weekend signals that the end of the school year is near and summer is just around the corner. Unfortunately, summer can be a deadly time. Last year, 82 children drowned in Texas and most between Memorial Day and Labor Day – when water activities peak.

That's why the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is urging all adults to "watch kids around water" this Memorial Day Weekend and all summer long!

"We can all make a difference just by being aware of what is happening around us," said DFPS Commissioner John Specia. "Be on the lookout for children, when they are around water. Don't let them out of your sight! It only takes minutes for a child to drown and the younger the child, the greater the danger."

15 kids have drowned in Texas this year – more than half were five years old or younger and all but three were under the age of ten.

The Houston area is typically a hot spot for [child drowning](#) deaths but for far this year the Dallas-Fort Worth area has the most child drowning deaths with four. In Texas this year, four children have drowned in bath tubs (29%), three in pools (21%), and two in ponds (14%). Other locations include a river, a lake, a creek, and a septic tank.

Children under the age of one most often drown inside the house. Older children most often drown outdoors. Outdoors, children most often drown in pools, especially backyard and apartment pools. Most young children who drown in pools were out of sight less than five minutes and were in the care of one or both parents at the time. Indoors, the bathtub is the most dangerous location.

For more statistics and information on water safety for kids, visit WatchKidsAroundWater.org.

Basic Water Safety Tips

Inside the house

- Never leave small children alone near any container of water.
- Keep bathroom doors closed and secure toilet lids with lid locks.
- Never leave a baby alone in a bath for any reason. Get the things you need before running water, and take the child with you if you must leave the room.
- Warn babysitters or caregivers about the dangers of water and stress the need to constantly supervise young children.
- Make sure small children cannot leave the house through pet doors or unlocked doors and reach pools or hot tubs.

Outside the house

- Never leave children alone around water whether it is in a pool, wading pool, drainage ditch, creek, pond, or lake.
- Constantly watch children who are swimming or playing in water. They need an adult or certified lifeguard watching and within reach.
- Secure access to swimming pools with fences, self-closing and latching gates, and water surface alarms.
- Completely remove the pool cover when the pool is in use.
- Store water toys away from the water, when not in use, so they don't attract a small child.
- Don't assume young children will use good judgment around water.
- Be ready for emergencies. Keep emergency telephone numbers handy and learn CPR.
- Find out if your child's friends or neighbors have pools.