

Swimming Pool Safety from Kirkwood Fire Department



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

Statistics show that drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related deaths among children ages one to 14, and most of these involve residential pools. The Kirkwood Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the safety issues related to pools.

Children are curious and are drawn to water, not understanding the danger pools can pose to them. Drowning happens quickly and silently, often without any splashing or screaming. Here are some simple rules to help you have a safe swimming season:

- Always swim with a buddy, never alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer.
- Never leave kids alone while they are in or near a pool, even if they can swim.
- Assign specific adults to keep an eye on the pool at all times.
- When you have groups of children, or guests, assign adults in shifts to ensure the children are watched closely.
- Obey “no diving” signs. This means the area is unsafe for headfirst entries. You should always enter the water feet first if you don’t know the depth.
- Check for submerged obstacles.



Your pool should be surrounded with a sturdy barrier at least 5 feet high. Make sure entry to the pool area is through a secured access point, and if it is a gated access, make sure young children can’t reach the gate latch. Another safety item that can be purchased, which will alert the homeowner if someone has entered the pool, is a pool alarm. Alarms can also be purchased to place on the door of your home closest to the pool area. These will sound in the event someone tries to enter or leave that door. Slips and trips are common on slippery surfaces, so discourage running in a pool area.

Keep rescue equipment, such as a life preserver and a long pole with a hook on the end, near your pool area. Keep a cordless, water-resistant telephone in the pool area, and post emergency numbers near the pool area. If a child is missing, always look in the pool area first because **seconds count**. It is recommended that you learn CPR if you have a pool. The Kirkwood Fire Department offers CPR training. For information, call 314-822-5883. **Call 911 immediately** if someone experiences a drowning or near drowning incident.

The Kirkwood Fire Department hopes you have a fun and safe summer-swimming season.