

Water Safety

When we think of water safety, we generally think of swimming pools. But there are many other places where water safety should be practiced.

Hints to remember

- Never leave a child alone near any kind of water.
- Bathtubs, water buckets, fountains, play pools, even toilets can be hazards; warn children to be careful around these seemingly innocent bodies of water.
- Even one inch of water can drown a child. Keep an eye on children around any water source.
- Have everyone in the family take swimming lessons - it's great family fun and can help save a life. Call your local YMCA for class schedules and registration information.
- Sign up for an American Red Cross CPR course by calling your local chapter.

Swimming and pool safety

1. NEVER leave a child unobserved around the pool; keep your eyes on children at ALL TIMES.
2. Designate a "water watcher."
3. Enclose your yard and pool with a self-closing, self-locking fence with vertical bars. Fence openings should be no more than four inches wide.
4. Don't leave furniture near a pool fence that would enable a child to climb the fence.
5. Keep toys and pets away from the pool; they can cause a child to fall into the water.
6. Keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it. A pole, rope and life preservers are recommended.
7. Install a phone by the pool and keep a cordless phone nearby so no one has to go inside to answer a call.
8. Post CPR instructions and the 9-1-1 Emergency number in the pool area.
9. Learn CPR and insist that anyone who cares for children know it as well.
10. Always swim with a buddy.
11. Don't depend on floating toys; they are not designed to save lives. Use approved lifesaving equipment.
12. Always swim away from diving boards and slides; when jumping, diving or sliding, be sure to wait until others clear your landing area before entering the water.
13. If you are overheated, enter the water slowly. Rapid temperature changes can cause you to faint or lose muscle control.
14. Don't mix drugs or alcohol with swimming.
15. Make sure GFI is functional on pool light.
16. Make sure pool-cleaning equipment, such as brush and skimmer pools, don't come in contact with power lines.
17. Teach older children to watch out for their brothers and sisters.
18. Don't run or engage in horseplay on pool decks. Decks are very slippery when wet.

Canal safety

A shared responsibility canals deliver water and that is what they are designed for -- to efficiently carry water they are not meant for swimming. If you use the canal banks, be sure you are aware of the hazards. Use of the canal banks is done at the user's own risk for any recreational use.

Safety tips

If you are going to walk, jog or bike along the canals, be sure you know how to do so safely. Canals can be very dangerous, so please follow these canal safety tips to avoid drowning or injury:

1. Don't swim in canals - ever!
2. Keep a safe distance from the edge of the canals.
3. Canal sides are extremely slick, making it difficult to get out.
4. Swimming, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing and tubing are not allowed on the canals.
5. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the canal banks (authorization from your local water or power company is required).
6. Stay away from automated equipment at water delivery gates.
7. Never jump in to rescue pets or objects such as toys. Call 911 for help.
8. Secure permission from your local Water or Power Company before using canal banks for any kind of event.

Canal recreation

Canals are popular recreation areas. However, anyone using the canal banks always should keep in mind that the canals, canal banks and associated facilities are built and maintained for the primary purpose of transmission and distribution of water.

Canal banks are open for walking, running and bicycling in most areas. Swimming and other water activities are not permitted.

Motorized vehicles, other than those specifically authorized by local Water or Power Company, are not allowed on canal banks.

Swimming or other water activities are not permitted in the canals for safety reasons. Security personnel patrol the canals regularly.

Unauthorized users of the banks are considered trespassers. Citations are issued and, when appropriate, trespassers are turned over to local law enforcement agencies for prosecution. Before using canal banks for special events, organized groups must secure permission from their local company.