

Safety Tips: Swimming Pools

El Paso Fire Department Officials would like to offer these safety tips for all citizens when utilizing a swimming pool:

- Drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional injury-related deaths in the United States and is the second leading cause among children ages 1-14.
- The majority of drownings and near drownings occur in residential swimming pools and open water sites.
- Children can drown in as little as one inch of water and therefore they are at risk of drowning in wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, toilets, spas and hot tubs.
- Drowning does usually occur quickly and silently.
- Child drownings and near drownings can happen in a matter of seconds and typically occur when a child is left unattended or during a brief lapse in supervision.
- Never leave a child unattended near water in a pool, there is no substitute for adult supervision.
- Designate a “water watcher” to maintain constant watch over the children in the pool during gatherings.
- Door and windows should be armed to alert adults when opened. Doors should be self-closing and self-latching so children won’t wander off.
- Keep a phone poolside so that you never have to leave the pool to answer the phone, and can call for help if needed.
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- If a child is missing, always check the pool first. Seconds count.
- Remove toys from in and around the pool when not in use.
- Do not consider children “drown proof” because they’ve had swimming lessons.
- Don’t use floating chlorine dispensers that look like toys.
- Store all chemicals away and out of the reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended near water in a pool, there is no substitute for adult supervision.