



Fire Chief
KEITH RICHTER

**FIRE DISTRICT OFFERS TIPS TO REDUCE NUMBER OF CHILD DROWNINGS,
LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH, DISABILITY AND INJURY FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5**

Drowning is the leading cause of death, disability, and injury for children under 5 years of age in California.

Decreasing the amount of time for the Emergency Medical System to respond increases a person's chance of survival. The reporting person is the first link in the system, with a call to 9-1-1 in an emergency.

- If at all possible call 911 from a home (landline) phone, not a cell phone. Wired or cordless home and business phones transmit your address to the dispatch center computer display automatically.
- If a cell phone is the only phone available and you are in Contra Costa County, then call 925-933-1313 or 911.
- When calling 911 please listen to the dispatcher and the questions they ask, remain calm, and stay on the line for instructions.

Prevention measures for pool owners include:

- Pool fencing and covers. Only secured/anchored pool covers should be used. Thermal covers (bubble covers) provide no safety or security.

The most important drowning prevention measure is constant supervision of toddlers and children anywhere near water. And everyone should learn CPR, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Also see

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/epic/Drowning/Local/Drowning.htm>

Drowning Prevention: Toddler Pool and Spa Safety

http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Drown/drowning_prevention.pdf

Drowning Prevention Checklist

<http://drowningpreventionfoundation.us/index.html>

Drowning Prevention Foundation

The Fire District has safety rules for pools and more information about preventing child drowning. Contact the Public Education office at 925-941-3327 for more information. (May 2008)