



## POOL SAFETY TIPS BY DON MOORE

Drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Nearly 1,200 children 15 years of age and younger die yearly from drowning. In the past decade, the number of drowning's has steadily increased, largely due to the lack of proper safety precautions in back yard pools.

Moore Protection would like to provide all parents with the following pool safety tips to protect their families. And, although most pool accidents occur with small children, all members of the family should be aware of these rules.

- First and foremost, encourage all members of the family to take swimming lessons if they do not know how to swim. Local organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, or YMCA can provide information on when and where these lessons are available.
- Pools should be entirely enclosed, with a locking gate, so that children cannot access the pool without supervision.
- Children should ALWAYS be supervised when playing in or near the pool.
- At least one parent or designated supervisor should be trained in CPR and first aid. Again, information and training are available through your local Red Cross and YMCA.
- Each individual should be taught water safety before entering the pool. It's not merely a matter of knowing how to swim.
- All swimmers should be aware of the various things that can be used to save someone from drowning. These include pool equipment (pool skimmers, floats, throw rings) and pool toys (balls, floating chairs, etc). Even an empty cooler can be used as a flotation device.
- The drop off from the shallow end of the pool to the deep end should be clearly marked, either by painting a wide black line on the bottom of the pool or by installing one of the floating ropes.
- Electrical items and glass should never be used in or near the pool. The only material safe for pool use is plastic.
- Finally, toys that children are particularly attached to should not be stored or used near the pool. Children will follow toys into the pool should they fall in.

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