



# Essentials of Community Risk Reduction

## Preventing Drowning Tip Sheet

### Protect Children Inside the Home

- Never leave a young child unattended near water.
- Empty all tubs, buckets, containers and kiddie pools immediately after use. Store them upside down so they don't collect water.
- Close toilet lids and use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning.
- Keep doors to bathrooms and laundry rooms closed.
- Once bath time is over, immediately drain the tub.

### Protect Children in and Around Pools

- Practice active supervision when children are in or around the water, even if lifeguards are present. Don't be distracted by electronic devices, reading, or conversation.
- Keep young children within arm's reach of an adult.
- Don't trust your child's safety to another child.
- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.
- Install four-sided isolation fencing around your home pool or hot tub. It should be at least five feet high, equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates that completely surround the pool and prevents direct access from the house and yard.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.

### Protect Teens and Young Adults

- Make sure everyone wears a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when boating.
- Never consume alcohol when swimming or operating a boat.
- Don't underestimate the power of water; even rivers and lakes can have undertows.
- Always have a first aid kit and emergency contacts handy.
- Don't dive in unfamiliar areas.