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Child Drowning Prevention – Best Practices – Arizona & Australia

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Prevention



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

Population Comparisons –

- Maricopa County, AZ (Valley of the Sun) 3,590,804
- Broward County, FL 1,757,590
- Miami-Dade County, FL 2,329,187

September 14, 2006 – Mohave Daily News article “Phoenix enjoying rare summer with no child pool deaths.” Article indicates since May 14, 2006, no child has drowned in a pool.

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Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

Maricopa County –

- Drowning Deaths of Resident Children
 - Through October 5, 2006 –
 - *Total Fatalities: 6 children under age 5

Maricopa County Official Statistics

2005** - 15 children
2004** - 14 children
2003** - 15 children
2002** - 18 children

* Data Source – Valley Fire Departments

** Data Source – Arizona Vital Statistics

Dade & Broward Official Statistics

2005*** - 14 children
2004*** - 12 children
2003*** - 26 children
2002*** - 12 children

*** Data Source – Florida Vital Statistics



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

State of Arizona Pool Enclosure Requirements - Enacted in 1991 –

- All residential swimming pools are enclosed by a barrier 5 feet high, preventing direct access from the house to the pool.
- When wall of residence is part of the pool enclosure - must have a 4 feet high interior barrier or a motorized safety pool cover. Requirements - Self-latching devices on all doors with direct access to the pool for all openable windows with pool access.

Exemption - Residence in which all residents are at least 6 years of age.



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

Phoenix Pool Enclosure Requirements -

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Other Provision - No Exemption - New occupants through sale of lease with a resident 6 years of age or under.



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

Phoenix Enforcement –

- Pool Fence Issues – Report - no interior barriers or pool fence damages to the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department. Report - unsecured fencing to the Phoenix Fire Department.
- Green Pools – Report - hazardous green pools to the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department.
- Call Phoenix Police 9-1-1 when you see unsupervised children around a pool or water hazards.

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Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

Drowning Prevention Community Programs –

- Water Watcher Program within Phoenix Children's Hospital
 - Established in late 1999 by family and friends of Weston Letter, a 3 ½ year old boy who drowned in his family's swimming pool.
 - Water Safety Day



The Myths of Drowning : A Report for Media Professionals

- August - Drowning Impact Awareness Month
- ABC's of Water Safety – Family Plan
- Water Safety is YOU! – First Grade Curriculum



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Arizona

Drowning Prevention Community Programs –

- Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
- Phoenix Fire Department
- United Phoenix Firefighters – Adopt-A-Fence Program & SaveRKids Program
- American Red Cross
- Children’s Safety Zone Website

Non-Traditional Community Partners -

- SRP - Largest provider of electricity with 890,000 customers in the Phoenix area
- Valley Toyota Dealerships
- La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries
- Local Community Colleges

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Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Population Comparisons –

■ Australia	20,264,082
■ Broward County, FL	1,757,590
■ Miami-Dade County, FL	2,329,187

Australia Drowning Facts –

- Between 1999 and 2003, 229 children less than 5 years old drowned.
- 80% of all child drownings (0-14 years old) were of children less than 5 years old.
- 78% of these children who drowned in a swimming pool fell into the pool.
- More than twice as many boys as girls drowned.



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Australian Standards “Fences and Gates for Swimming Pools” –

- Local Government Act 1960, Building Regulations 1989, and Australian Standard 1926.1 – 1993; Fencing for Swimming Pools
- Effective December 17, 2006, owners or occupier of a property with a private swimming or spa pools, approved for building prior to July 1, 1992, must install a barrier between the residence and pool/spa.



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Australian Standards “Fences and Gates for Swimming Pools” –

- Can be a dedicated pool fence or owners/occupiers may choose to modify the doors and windows to provide access restrictions from the residence to the pool enclosure.
- All residential swimming pools are enclosed by a barrier at least 5 feet high, preventing direct access from the house to the pool.

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Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Australian Standards “Fences and Gates for Swimming Pools” –

- Transitional period ran from March 2002 through December 17, 2006.
- Maintain all safety devices to ensure they are in good working order.
- Secure and lock all doors, windows and gates leading to the water area when not in use.
- Fines for non compliance runs from \$100 to \$250 per day with a maximum penalty of \$5,000.



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Drowning Prevention Programs –

- Royal Life Saving Society – Keep Watch Program
 - Toddler Drowning Prevention for children under age 5.
 - Supervise
 - Restrict Access to Water – Fencing
 - Familiarize children with water
 - Learn Resuscitation
 - Supported by tax deductible donations and Keep Watch fundraising raffle – Partners Qantas & Myers (retail stores)



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Drowning Prevention Programs –

- Royal Life Saving Society -
 - Infant Aquatics – Key Components -
 - Water Familiarization
 - Water Safety
 - Early Stroke Development
 - Children will participate in
 - Getting Wet, Keeping Balance, Breathing
 - Basic Kick & Arm Action, Going Underwater, Staying Afloat



Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia

Drowning Prevention Programs –

- Royal Life Saving Society - Swim & Survive Program
 - Begin after Infant Aquatics – Elementary School Age
 - 7 Levels of classes
 - Interactive games & stories on website
 - Water Safety “jingle” contest

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Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices – Australia



The time is now for Florida to break away from the pack and select our best practices!