



**Cooper City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item Request Form**

Commission Meeting/Workshop Date: 20190820

Requesting Department: Commission/Meltzer

Subject: Grandparents' Home Pool Safety

Section:

Presentation

Consent

Regular

Discussion

Background and Recommendation (attach backup material to Item Request Form):

Please see the attached backup regarding the Grandparents' Home Pool Safety Program
Skipper Duda will offer presentation on the following items (see backup)

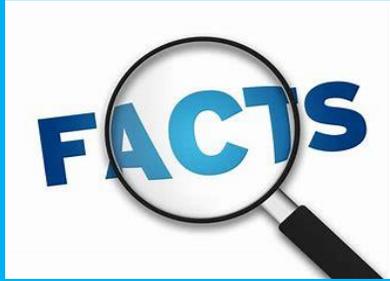
General Ledger Account Number(s) and Amount(s):

Approvals:

Finance Director _____ City Manager _____ City Clerk _____

Home Swimming Pool Safety Tips For Grandparents & Children





Many grandparents relocate to warmer climates upon retirement and have backyard pools on their property.

Many grandparents also help their family out by picking up and babysitting grandchildren.



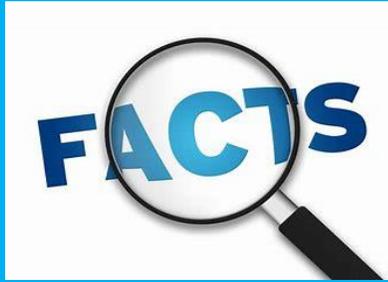
If you are a grandparent with a backyard pool watching grandkids, this information will help you *be prepared to have a safe, fun pool environment.*

Our main areas of WATER SAFETY concern are:

- **Knowing the “Be Safe / Be Aware” Facts**
- **Implementing Barriers & Alarms Around Water**
- **Sharing Safety Rules at Your Pool**

Included are:

- **Topics for YOU to Research**
- **Actions for YOU to Take**



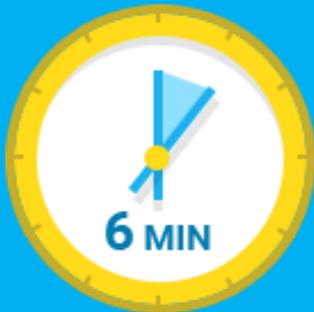
Be “**AWARE**” Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 4.



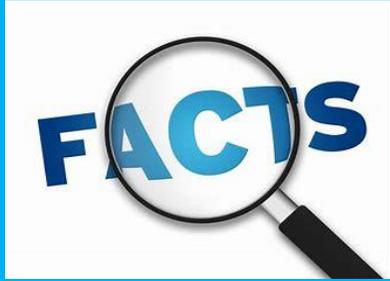
Drowning occurs in as little as **2 minutes**.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as **4 minutes**.



Most children under water for as little as **6 minutes** die.



Be “AWARE” - 23% of child drownings happened during a family gathering at the swimming pool.

Drowning is often portrayed as a loud, dramatic event but in real-life, drowning is usually **completely silent.**

According to the **Florida** Department of Children and Families statistics:

In 2018, there were 67 child drownings under 3 years old.

In 2019, there were 25 child drownings under 3 years old.

(7/13)



Be “SAFE”

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- **Put Barriers / Alarms around your Pool**
- ***Enforce the “Water Watcher” Commitment**
- **Be Prepared – Lessons, Rules & More**
- **Know How To Respond for an Emergency**



Put Barriers / Alarms Around YOUR Pool

Florida and Arizona are 2 states that have created their own individual pool fence laws.

Most municipalities now require this for everyone, including pool owners who don't have children.

And if you *own* a home with a pool, your homeowner's policy may require it as well.

Essentially, for pool safety, it's all about *perimeter control*.

**Barriers such as
*fences,
gate & pool alarms,
self-latching gates,
and safe pool covers***

add an extra layer of protection.

The more barriers, the more likely a tragedy can be prevented.



There are many pool fences and alarms and every day new options are on the market.

Do Your Research in your community for your pool!

Making sure there are proper barriers around your pool is a great first step.

Even with these barriers in place, never underestimate the ability of a determined toddler and the lure of a pool.

Consider installing door alarms on all doors that lead outside and don't forget to block the doggie door!

Fences can be climbed and covers may be crawled under.



Enforce the “WATER WATCHER” Commitment



Active Adult supervision is the best protection against drowning.

Never take your eyes off children who are in or around bodies of water.

The National Drowning Prevention Alliance has developed the “Water Watcher” program.

Always designate a “Water Watcher”!

If the water watcher steps away, they must hand off the responsibility to another qualified person.

The Water Watcher Must:

Never be on the phone,

reading a book,

or talking with friends

while watching the grandkids.

Never let a child you are watching be more than an arms length from you





**TAKE
ACTION**

Be Prepared – Lessons, Rules & More

Make sure your grandchildren take swim lessons.

Bonding occurs when you and your grandchildren take swim lessons together.

There are many places that offer lessons, but no matter how good your grandchild can swim, you must still practice strict vigilance in watching grandchildren in the water!

It's also a good idea for everyone to know how to swim. You never know when it might save a life.

Don't allow children to do extended breath holding in the water.

This can be dangerous and they could experience shallow water blackout.

It is important that kids do not ingest too much water. It could lead to dry water drowning. Know what to look for because it may require medical assistance.



Have an ***Emergency Action Plan*** and include all family members. Teach children

- 1) how to call **9-1-1**
- 2) tell them to always get an adult to help.

Even young kids can be taught the rules, never go into the pool without a grown up!

Repeat this rule often, as kids learn with repetition.

Don't count on children obeying.

All grandparents, whether you own a pool or not, should know CPR. It's not difficult and it could save someone's life.

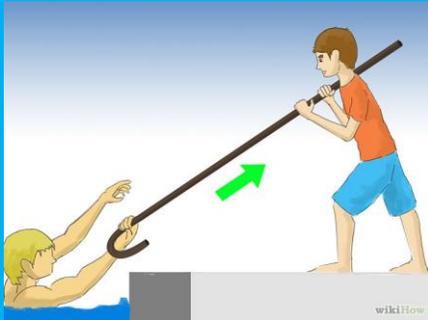
Contact the **Red Cross** or **the American Heart Association** for a class.

Keep Toys Away from the Pool Area When Not in Use

Toys left out can be a powerful attraction for children.

Make sure your pool is equipped with the following rescue devices:

- a shepherd's hook
- a ring buoy
- a rescue tube.



**If you notice a child or adult is missing,
always check the pool first!**

Do not use flotation devices such as water wings, arm floaties or noodles as a substitute for supervision.



Limit time in the sun and remember to use proper sunscreen.

Electrical Safety

Electrical Shocks

Death can occur in healthy individuals when an electric current flow reaches 18 milliamperes.

At this level, the chest muscles could contract, causing breathing to stop.

If the current is allowed to continue at this level, unconsciousness and death may result.

There are five general elements of consideration for aquatic facilities:

Grounding

Bonding

Safe distances

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI)

Warnings, labels, and procedures



Sources of Shocks

The CPSC has reports of 14 deaths related to electrocutions in swimming pools from 2003-2014.

Hot tubs and spas may present the same electrical hazards as swimming pools.

The following present risk of electrocution in or around the pool:

- ✓ Underwater lighting
- ✓ Electrical pool equipment-pumps, filters, vacuum, etc.
- ✓ Extension and power cords
- ✓ Electrical outlets or switches
- ✓ Radios, stereos, TVs and other electrical products
- ✓ Overhead power lines



Know How To Respond to an Emergency

If an adult or child is missing,
always check the pool first because seconds count!

Always take a phone with you to the
pool in case you need to call for
help.

Don't let your phone be a distraction.

It is there for emergency only.



RWI – Recreational Water Illness.

If a child has an accident in the water, you will need to clear the pool to prevent danger to others.

Make sure to take children to the bathroom before entering the water.

RWI's are prevented by keeping children from swallowing contaminated water.

Always check the weather before entering the water.

If you see *lightning or hear thunder*, you must clear the pool.

Check with your community to see if they have a ThorGuard or lightning alert system.

If you hear it from your house, it will be a good warning system.

Keep pool chemicals stored in an acceptable, locked designated area.

Children should not be breathing in or have access to touch any chemicals!

Make sure you have the *number for poison control* posted in case there is an emergency.

Investigate your pool drain, to ensure proper drain coverage, with a pool professional.

There have been instances where children can be caught by drain suction.

If this should happen, make sure you know *how* and *where* to turn off your pool pump.

If your pool pump catches fire, shut off the electric first and use an extinguisher.

DO NOT USE water on an electrical fire.

This project was developed by
**MDM AQUATICS SAFETY/TRAINING
& CONSULTING, LLC.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.mdmaquatic-safety.com>



COMMERCIALS?
REARSECTIONS?
QUESTIONS?