



SEMPER SAFE



Where's Your Child? Pool Safety 101

Did you know the vast majority of all drowning deaths occur in family pools? Typically, the child was last seen in a "safe area," far from the pool. These tragedies often occur while one or both parents are home. Drowning is "the silent killer" because there is often no cry for help and very little sound from splashing. These drowning can occur in the smallest of wading pools, intermediate inflatable pools to large in ground pools. In a effort to assist those that may have pools in your back yard or let your children frequent pools in your community follow the below safety tips to help protect your loved ones from a pool mishap.

- Install and maintain an isolation fence separating your pool from the house and play areas.
- **DESIGNATE** an adult to supervise children around water, especially at social gatherings.
- **NEVER** consider children to be "water safe" despite swimming skills, lessons or water experience.
- Floaties, swimmers or other inflatable flotation toys are not life jackets and should never be substituted for an adult's supervision. Ensure toys are kept away from the water's edge.
- Assure a clear view from the house to the pool or spa by removing vegetation or other obstacles.
- Always completely remove covers before using pool or spa. Lightweight, floating covers are not safety covers and will not support the weight of a child and could become trapped under the cover.
- Consider use of a pool alarm that will detect the fall of a child in the water
- Ensure you have appropriate life saving equipment available
- Ensure underwater drains are guarded to keep swimmers from being entrapped
- Use steps/hand railings when entering/exiting pools to prevent slips and falls on hard surfaces
- Never dive into above-ground pools, they are too shallow. Don't dive from the side of an in-ground pool. Enter the water feet first. Dive only from the end of the diving board, not the sides.
- For more valuable safety tips go to Safe Kids USA website @ <http://www.usa.safekids.org/water/>

Marine Corps Base Housing Private Pool Safety Guidelines:

- **Private pools are not to exceed two feet in height. While private wading/swimming pools are allowed for small children, they cannot be left overnight or unattended at any time while there is water in the pool.** This presents a safety hazard for children as well as pets. Structures such as personal whirlpools/spas are not allowed. No four foot pools allowed in accordance with http://www.atlanticmcc.com/our_communities/documents/ResidentGuide.pdf

Commanders and Supervisors: You are responsible for your personnel's safety. Likewise they are responsible for their family's safety. Ensure your personnel are aware of the hazards associated with pools and know the safety guidelines to prevent potential pool mishaps on and off base. For more information contact your Unit Safety Officer, Base Safety Representative.

As Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines we live by our ethos. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, or family members, and remember
SEMPER SAFE!