



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

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Dear Irvine Parents,

Whether you are enjoying summer at the beach, the Aquatic Center or in your backyard pool, water is great fun for kids and adults alike; however, it is also a place where safety is required.

Unfortunately, this is the time of year when drowning incidents occur more often. In fact, California leads the nation in drowning. Last year, 86 drowning incidents happened in Orange County; 43 of them were fatalities. Between 2009 and 2014, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) responded to 467 drowning incidents. We hear about these incidents way too often. Most recently, rescuers responded to five near-drowning incidents over the long July 4th holiday weekend and every one could have been prevented.

Even though drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for kids under age 5 and the second leading cause of injury or accidental death in kids under 14, it also happens with adults. One drowning is far too many. In an effort to bring awareness of the issue, we would like to share water safety resources. This is why it's so important to follow common-sense tips like OCFA's "[ABCs of Water Safety](#)."

For example:

- **A:** Active Adult Supervision meaning always keep infants and toddlers within an arm's reach when near water and never swim alone, even if you are an adult. Don't rely on water wings, rafts or other swimming aids in place of U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- **B** is for Barriers: install and maintain proper fencing around your pool or spa to isolate swimming areas. Use multiple layers of protection like fences, gate/door alarms, and safety covers to keep kids away from pools and spas.
- **C** is for Classes - learn to swim and learn first aid and CPR.

Additional water safety fliers on both [pool safety](#) and [beach safety](#) are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese at ocfa.org. OCFA also offers videos on water safety in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Korean](#) and [Mandarin](#).

Whether you are at the pool or splashing around the bathtub with your toddler, Water safety is something we need to practice each and every day. Together, we can make a difference in preventing senseless tragedies. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to receive water safety messages.

If you have any specific questions about drowning prevention, feel free to contact us at 714-573-6200.

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