



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## *Drowning Prevention*

Throughout the summer season, many Californians enjoy activities involving swimming at a pool, river, waterpark or beach. Careful vigilance can prevent tragedy, especially drowning.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 10 people die from unintentional drownings every day in the United States. Drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children ages five and under, with an average of 51 new deaths per year in California. Children and adults who survive a near-drowning accident often suffer permanent brain damage. The California Department of Developmental Services currently provides services to 748 survivors of near-drowning accidents who require lifelong support for their disabilities.

I urge all Californians to enjoy the summer fun, but to follow important drowning prevention practices to protect themselves and their community. These life-saving steps include constant supervision of children in and around water, the use of pool fencing and personal floatation devices, and learning to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Sincerely,

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.