Swimming, boating and spending time in water should be fun. Keep it safe!

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children 1 to 4 years old. Among children 1 to 14 years old, it is the second leading cause of accidental death.

Drowning is QUIET. Someone who is struggling will not yell for help and will not wave their arms. Often, they slip silently underwater.

Drowning is QUICK. It takes only a few minutes for a drowning or serious brain injury to occur.

Drowning prevention requires more than one safety measure.

“Drowning prevention requires more than one safety measure. If one safety measure fails, another safety measure might save your life — or the life of your child.”

Sheriff David Hutchinson
Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office

For more water safety information, visit hennepinsheriff.org/wise.

Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office
Dedicated to increasing public safety through leadership, integrity, and strong partnerships
In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.
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WATCH

your kids when they are in—or near—the water

Being near your kids isn’t enough. In 70% of cases where young children drowned, one or both parents were nearby. Adults must focus on their kids who are in—or near—the water.

For preschool children, use touch supervision — parents should be close enough to reach the child at all times.

Designate one adult as a water watcher who will focus on the kids and avoid distractions like cell phones or even talking with others. Remain near the water until you pass the responsibility to another adult.

Parents must give careful, constant and active supervision to their kids — even when there are lifeguards on duty.

WEAR

an approved life jacket

Weak swimmers or non-swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets in or near swimming pools or other bodies of water. Do not rely on water wings or other inflatable devices.

Even if your child is wearing a life jacket, adult supervision is still needed.

State law requires that children under age 10 must wear a life jacket while boating, and life jackets must be readily accessible for all boaters. It is highly recommended that all children and adults wear life jackets during boating.

LEARN

to swim and learn about water safety

Adults and children must know how to swim to be safe in the water. Teach children how to tread water, float and stay by the shore.

For a safe rescue of a submerged person, use a shepherd’s hook to pull them to the water’s edge.

For a safe rescue of a conscious person, throw them a life preserver or use a shepherd’s hook so they can be pulled to safety.

Learn CPR. This should be a priority for parents!

Stay away from swimming pool/spa drains and other pool openings to avoid entrapment. Report damaged or non-compliant drains and covers. Do not enter a pool or spa with a broken, loose, or non-compliant drain cover.