



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 2022

Drowning Prevention Month

This summer, many Californians will enjoy activities involving bodies of water like swimming at a pool, river, waterparks, or beach. While I encourage Californians to enjoy these activities and warm weather, I also urge them to be safe and stay vigilant to prevent drowning-related tragedies.

According to the Drowning Prevention Foundation, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among California children ages four and under, with an average of more than 52 new deaths per year. Two-thirds of all drowning accidents occur between May and August. Children and adults who survive near-drowning accidents often suffer permanent brain damage. The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) currently provides services to nearly 800 survivors of near-drowning accidents who require lifelong assistance for their disabilities.

Families must be aware of safe practices to prevent drowning and keep children safe. In many cases, drowning is silent. There often are no warnings or splashing sounds associated with drowning incidents. It is our responsibility to teach children survival skills, ensure they have constant supervision by an adult in and around water, install isolation fencing and alarms around pool areas, and know how to respond. Basic training in water rescue skills, first aid, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) could save a child's life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom