



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 2024

Drowning Prevention Month

This summer, many Californians will enjoy swimming at a pool, river, waterpark, or beach. As Californians make the most of these activities and the warm weather, I urge everyone 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 51 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 currently provides services to nearly 750 survivors of preventable near-drownings who require lifelong assistance for their disabilities.

It's critical that families learn about lifesaving practices to prevent drowning and keep children safe. In many cases, drowning is silent – there often are no warning or splashing sounds. 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 in an emergency. Basic training in water rescue skills, first aid, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) could save a child's life.

During Drowning Prevention Month, I urge all Californians to spread awareness on water safety and help protect others from these preventable tragedies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom