



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 2026

Water Safety 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.

Drowning remains a leading cause of death among children. Nearly 400 Californians of all ages tragically lose their lives to drowning each year, with two-thirds of all drowning accidents occurring between May and August.

Children and adults who survive near-drowning accidents often suffer permanent brain damage. Currently, the California Department of Developmental Services and its regional center partners provide ongoing care to nearly 725 individuals who survived near-drowning incidents.

There are many ways to prevent drowning. Ensure children have adult supervision in and around water. Put up isolation fencing and safety barriers around pools to keep unsupervised young children safe and away from water. Through The Neng Thao Drowning Prevention Safety Act, (AB 1445, 2023) and AB 1005 (2025), drowning prevention organizations are authorized to provide educational materials to public schools, encouraging water safety and resources to learn more.

It is critical to learn essential lifesaving practices to prevent drowning and keep children safe. In many cases, drowning is silent – there are often no warning or splashing sounds. It is our responsibility to teach children survival skills 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 National Water Safety 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".

Gavin Newsom