



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Justice
BC Coroners Service

You are not expecting your child to drown today

VANCOUVER – Two recent pool-related toddler fatalities are a sobering reminder that with the warm weather, the risks around pools in public places and backyards increases.

The BC Coroners Service strongly urges everyone to be extra-vigilant in keeping their kids safe around water.

BC Coroners Service statistics show that close to 30 per cent of pool-related fatalities involved preschool-aged children (ages 1-4 years). All preschooler pool deaths occurred in residential pools (backyard or townhouse/apartment complexes). All preschool pool deaths also occurred in the Metro and Fraser regions.

Pool drowning among young children is preventable. What can you do to reduce the risk?

- **Actively Supervise.** Active supervision means staying “within reach or sight of your child at all times”. Closely supervise children when swimming, bathing or playing around water – even those who can swim.
- **Create Barriers.** If you have a backyard pool, ensure it is fenced on all four sides with a self-closing, self-latching gate. When not using your pool, clear all toys out of the water and away from the edge, so they cannot tempt children to the water’s edge.
- **Get Trained.** Get trained through swimming and water safety lessons. Contact your local community centre for child and adult swimming lessons.

Reference:

Link to BC Swimming Pool Deaths 2006-2012 (YTD) statistics:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/publications/docs/swimming-pool-deaths.pdf>

Child Death Review Unit - Report on Drowning:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/child-death-review/docs/report-drowning2007.pdf>

Other tips are available from the Canadian Red Cross:

www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=18499&tid=024

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect