

Water Safety

Facts

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2003, there were 3,306 unintentional fatal drownings in the United States, averaging nine people per day. This figure does not include drownings in boating-related incidents.
- In 2003, 782 children ages zero to 14 years died from drowning. Drowning remains the second-leading cause of injury-related death for children ages one to 14 years.
- In 1999, more than 170 children ages 14 and under suffered personal watercraft injuries.

Summer Safety Month

RESOURCES:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention & Control**
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc>

Water-Related Injuries Fact Sheet
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/drown.htm>

American Red Cross – Summer Safety Tips
<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/sumsafety/>

Safe Kids Michigan – Safety Tips
<http://www.michigansafekids.org/safety.shtml>



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ✓ Children can drown in as little as one inch of water, usually quickly and silently.
- ✓ Only swim in approved areas.
- ✓ Never leave a child alone in or around water.
- ✓ Make sure kids wear approved personal floatation devices or life jackets.
- ✓ Children should not run, push others under water, jump on others, or dive or jump into shallow water.
- ✓ Do not let your child dive into water unless an adult is present and knows the water is deeper than nine feet.
- ✓ Adults and kids over age 13 should know infant and child CPR.
- ✓ Be sure to extinguish all smoking materials and shut down motors, fans and heating devices before fueling a boat. In case of a spill, wipe up fuel immediately and check the bilge for fuel leakage and odors. After fueling and before starting the boat's motor, ventilate with the blower for at least four minutes.