



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# **DROWNING FACTS**

## **WATER SAFETY YMCA OF GREATER ST. LOUIS**

### **IN THE TIME IT TAKES TO...**

- Cross a room for a towel (10 seconds), a child in a bathtub can be submerged.
- Answer the phone (2 minutes), a child can lose consciousness.
- Sign for a package at the front door (4-6 minutes), a child submerged in a tub or pool can sustain permanent brain damage.

### **HOW MUCH WATER DOES IT TAKE TO DROWN?**

- Inches of water in a bathtub.
- A bucket of water.
- Standing water on top of a pool or spa cover.
- Any amount of water that covers the mouth & nose.

### **DO PEOPLE ALWAYS YELL FOR HELP?**

- Most children do not yell for help.
- Non-swimmers or exhausted swimmers are unable to call for help.
- Drowning victims may be struggling under the water.

### **NEAR DROWNING - SURVIVAL AFTER SUBMERSION IN FLUID**

- For each child that drowns, it is estimated that 4 children are hospitalized for near-drowning
- Nationwide, 2700 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional drowning-related incidents
- As many as 20% of near drowning survivors suffer severe permanent neurological disability.
- Nearly all who require CPR die or are left with severe brain injury.

### **AREAS OF RISK RELATED TO DROWNING**

- Home Pools/Spas/Ponds
- Inside Homes
- Natural Bodies of Water
- Boating & Personal Water Crafts

### **APARTMENT & RESIDENTIAL POOLS**

- More than half of drownings among children ages 1-4 are pool related.
- More than half of these drownings occur in the child's home pool.
- Most children were last seen in the home and had been missing from sight for less than 5 minutes.

### **INFLATABLE POOLS & POOL COVERS**

- Inflatable & plastic pools should always be emptied after use.
- Remove steps from above ground pools.
- Drain water off the top of pool covers.

### **DIVING BOARDS & SLIDES**

- Not all pools are designed with diving in mind, especially residential pools.
- Most spinal cord injuries result from diving into shallow water.

