Water Awareness in Residential Neighborhoods
By the end of this presentation, you will be able to...

- Identify water safety hazards in your neighborhood
  - Swimming pools
  - Retention ponds
  - At home
- Identify prevention tips for water safety
- Educate your community on water safety and awareness
Drowning can happen **QUICKLY** and **QUIETLY**

Can you spot the drowning child?
Drowning claims the lives of more than 3,572 people every year.

945 of them are children.
Drowning is a **LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL INJURY RELATED DEATH** in children 14 years of age and younger.

Nearly half of drowning deaths are **INFANTS AND TODDLERS**.

Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a **BATHTUB**.

Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in **HOME SWIMMING POOLS**.

The likelihood of drowning in open water sites (such as retention ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans) **INCREASES WITH AGE**.
Drowning & Near Drowning

For every child that drowns, **5 MORE** are treated in the Emergency Department.

**DROWNING:**
Death from suffocation by submersion in water.

**NEAR DROWNING:**
Survival, at least temporarily, after submersion in water.
Pool Hazards

- Shallow water diving
- No lifeguard on duty
- Hazardous materials
- No adult supervision
- Wet decks and ground
- Pool covers
- No fencing
Above Ground Pools and Other Hazards
Retention Pond Hazards

- Debris & underwater obstruction
- Underwater entanglement
- No adult supervision
- Deep mud & low visibility
- Aquatic plant life
- No personal floatation devices
- Remote unseen retention ponds
- Unsupervised boating
Underwater Entanglement
No Adult Supervision
Deep Mud And Low Visibility
Remote, Unseen Retention Ponds
Remote, Unseen Retention Ponds
Home Hazards
Home Hazards

- Bathtubs
- Hot tubs
- Spas
- Whirlpools
- Water-filled containers
Can you spot the rip?
**Rip Current Hazards**

- Rip currents are present on many beaches (even in lakes) every day of the year.
- Don’t assume! Great weather doesn’t always mean it’s safe to swim or even play in the shallows. Rip currents often form on calm, sunny days.
- Rip currents move you off shore and you’re unable to get back because of fear, panic, exhaustion or lack of swimming skills.
- They can move fast – faster than even an Olympic swimmer.
Prevention Tips for Pools
Never leave a child unsupervised in or around water...anywhere!
Ensure Children Use Personal Floatation Devices
Install Four-Sided Isolation Fencing With Self-Latching Gates

- Fence surrounding entire pool
- Fence at least 5 feet tall
- Self-closing gate with self-latching lock
Never Dive In Water Less Than 9 Feet Deep

CAUTION SHALLOW WATER

NO DIVING ALLOWED
Keep Rescue Equipment Near the Pool Side
Prevention Tips for Retention Ponds
Prevention Tips for Retention Ponds

- Know the bodies of water in your area
- Work as a group to monitor ponds in your neighborhood
Educate Children About The Dangers In And Around Ponds
Be Ready To Act.
Learn To Use Rescue Devices
Use proper personal floatation devices during open water activities.
Supervise children around open water
NEVER

Let children wade or swim in retention ponds
Prevention Tips for Rip Tides

- Learn to swim in surf and never swim alone
  - It’s not the same as a pool
- Check water conditions before going in
  - Look at the local beach forecast
  - Talk to the lifeguard
- Look for posted signs and warning flags which may indicate higher than usual hazards
- Only swim at a beach with lifeguards
  - Chances of drowning at a beach with lifeguards are 1 in 18 million
- Be cautious! Always assume rip currents are present even if you don’t see them -- If in doubt, don’t go out!
- Throw the rip current victim something that floats – don’t go in and become a victim
• Don’t ice skate on ponds!
• Don’t skate on ice over moving water
• Skate only at skating rinks
Safety Tips

• Never leave children in or around water without adult supervision
• Don’t become a victim while trying to help save your friend – call 911 and go get help!
• Teach children to swim at an early age
• Always follow posted rules
• Use appropriate flotation devices
• Install 4 sided isolation fencing with self-latching gates
• Never wade, swim or play in retention ponds or on ice
• Educate your family, friends and neighbors on water safety and awareness
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Indianapolis Fire Department

Fishers Fire Department
Special thanks to
Special thanks to

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana

Schneider Engineering Architecture Surveying

Marion County Public Health Department

Indiana State Department of Health

YMCA

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.
Special thanks to

Your local Fire Department
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Thanks for coming!

Have fun. But remember to be safe around and promote water awareness in your neighborhood!