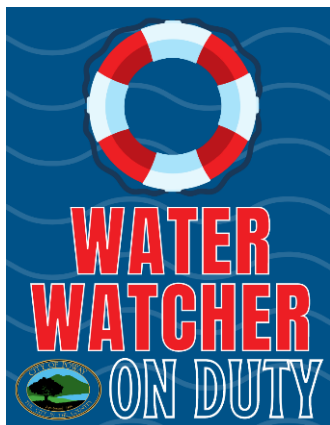


City of Poway Water Watcher Program

Why the Water Watcher Program?



- Drowning accidents are the leading cause of injury and deaths in children under the age of five.
- 70% of all preschoolers who drown are in the care of at least one parent at the time.
- 75% are missing from the sight of their parents for five minutes or less.
- There is no substitution for adult supervision around pools and hot tubs. Pool fencing would prevent 50-90 percent of childhood drownings.
- Children associate water with play, not danger. Adults must establish, communicate, and enforce rules and take responsibility for child safety. If a child is missing, check the pool first.

What this means

Assign an adult “Water Watcher” to supervise the pool/spa area or any other body of water, especially during social gatherings. The adult Water Watcher will maintain constant visual contact with children in the pool/spa area.

At least one adult Water Watcher will always wear this tag and vow to:

- Keep my eyes on the swimmers for as long as I have this tag.
- I will avoid distractions and remain alert while watching.
- I will not leave the waterside without handing this tag to another responsible adult and ensuring they understand the responsibilities.

Steps to Prepare

- Everyone over 14-years old in the household should be certified in adult, infant and child CPR.
- Adults should learn how to swim and administer rescue techniques.
- Post a sign with the rules for pool/spa use and reminder to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Post rules about the Water Watcher program and a have tag available.
- Install warning alarms on doors, windows and gates leading to the water. Check alarms on a regular basis.
- Childproof your pool area. Install a safety fence around the pool and equip it with self-latching gates. Remove any items or structures that may be used to climb over the fence.
- Install fencing with self-closing and self-latching gates and alarms around pools. Lock all doors and windows leading to the pool.
- Install a pool safety cover (power operated are the safest and easiest to use).

Contact Susy Turnbull at sturnbull@poway.org for more information