

Water Safety

Water incidents can happen at anytime and to anyone regardless of their swimming ability and familiarity of the area. Stay safe by following these tips.

Swimming Areas

- Always swim with a buddy even if you are an experienced swimmer.
- Never leave kids alone while they are in or near a swimming area, even if they can swim.
- Know your limits. Don't get overly tired.
- Do not swim if you are chilled, overheated, or immediately after eating.
- Alcohol and swimming do not mix.
- Do not chew gum or eat while swimming, you could easily choke.
- Obey "No Diving" signs. It means the area is unsafe for headfirst entries.
- Always enter the water feet first if you do not know the depth. Check for submerged obstacles.
- Always dive with your hands in front of your head.
- Surround your pool on sides with a sturdy 5 foot fence. Make sure young kids cannot reach the gate latch.
- Keep rescue equipment (life preservers, long pole with hook on end) near your swimming area.
- Slips and trips are common on slippery surfaces. Do not run in or near a swimming area.
- Don't body surf in waves bigger than 3 feet, on sloped beaches or near sandbars.
- Do not swim in bad weather conditions.

Shorelines and Open Water

- No ice is ever 100% safe. Stay off grey ice as it indicates the presence of water.
- Do not wander on frozen rivers and lakes in the spring. The ice is beginning to thaw, and you never know just how thin the ice really is.
- Spring's extra rain and thawing snow can cause normally safe rivers, streams, and undercut by rushing water and give in your weight.

