



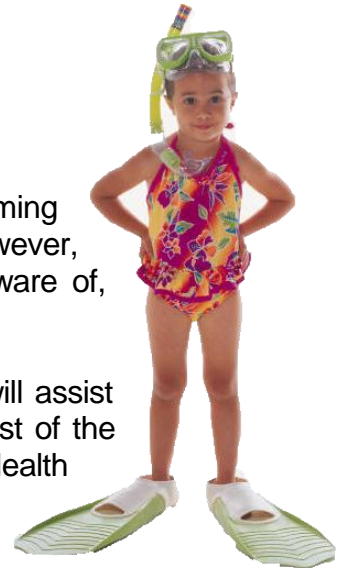
HEALTH CARE AGENCY/PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH *INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN*

TO: Orange County Public Pool Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Accidental Drowning Prevention

Sunny days and rising temperatures trumpet the beginning of pool season. Swimming is a terrific way to stay cool, have fun, and get exercise all at the same time. However, there are some inherent dangers around the use of a swimming pool to be aware of, particularly for small children.

The following drowning prevention tips are intended to provide information that will assist you as a swimming pool and/or spa pool owner/operator. It is not a complete list of the regulations. If you have any further questions, please contact Environmental Health (EH) at (714) 433-6000 or [review the pool code online](#).



- Fencing shall be secure and gates must be self-closing and self-latching. The most important safety feature of a pool is the fence and gates. The fence and self-closing gates keep small children from wandering into a pool enclosure unattended. [More information on fences and gates](#).
- The pool shall not be used if the water is not clean and clear. The main drain must be visible from the side of the pool. This is to ensure that anyone who has accidentally fallen in can be quickly and easily spotted.
- Drain covers shall be secured and removable only with tools and shall be designed to prevent physical entrapment or a suction hazard. [More information on new safety laws regarding suction entrapment hazards in public swimming pools](#).
- Safety and rescue equipment must be maintained readily accessible at every swimming pool. The following equipment is required:
 - Body hook attached to a light, strong pole at least 12 feet in length.
 - Life ring attached to a 3/16 inch line long enough to span the maximum width of the pool. (Minimum exterior diameter of ring to be 17 inches.)
- Required [safety signs](#) must be posted in plain view from the nearby deck.
- If you encounter a near drowning, notify EH and do not place the pool back into service without contacting us first.

