

An important reminder from the Canadian Red Cross: Parents need to watch children around water at all times

A small child can disappear in seconds and can drown in only a few centimetres of water – enough to cover the mouth and nose. The Red Cross encourages Canadians to stay safe when enjoying water activities, and reminds parents and caregivers about the importance of supervising children closely around water.

“Whether it’s a pool, the bathtub, or the beach, always watch children actively around water – even if they can swim,” stresses Shauna Moulton, Swimming and Water Safety Representative. “Parents and caregivers need to be vigilant at all times when children have access to any body of water.”

The absence of effective adult supervision is a factor in 75 per cent of deaths by drowning for children under the age of 10. In addition to constant active supervision, keep your family safe around water this summer with these safety tips:

Backyard pools: Above-ground backyard pools are especially dangerous for small children. Ensure adequate barriers are in place for backyard pools such as four-sided fencing along with a self-closing, self-latching gate.

Bathing children: When bathing infants or toddlers, an adult should remain with the child at all times — children should never be relied upon to supervise other children in the bath.

Diving: Diving headfirst into water should be avoided unless the individual is properly trained and is sure the water is deep enough. Many in-ground home pools, even those with diving boards, are unsafe for diving.

Open water: Never underestimate the power of current. Swimmers or waders can be swept away in an instant, particularly if non-swimmers or weak swimmers get caught by current in rivers or out of their depth in abrupt drop-offs.

“Swimming skills alone aren’t always enough to save a life,” says Shauna. “Learning to swim is important, but learning water safety is key to preventing an emergency in or on the water. Swimming skills combined with water safety knowledge and skills saves lives.”

The Canadian Red Cross is a national leader in learn-to-swim programs and drowning research. To learn more, visit redcross.ca/swim

From: Child Safety Link June, 2015

Mailing address

Child Safety Link
IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Avenue
PO Box 9700, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 6R8 Canada

Telephone

1-866-288-1388 (toll-free in the Maritimes)

Email

childsafetylink@iwk.nshealth.ca
unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences

Copyright © 2015 Child Safety Link, All rights reserved.