



Tips to Become A Water Smart Community

Take the Assessment How Water Smart Is Your Community?

Check, all that apply, Do you . . .	YES
Offer free Child CPR* training for your residents?	
If yes, do you promote the importance of knowing CPR* as it relates to proper bystander response from a bystander to a child drowning victim?	
If you do not, would you be willing to implement an annual CPR *program for residents?	
Provide active representation on the Broward County Drowning Prevention Task Force?	
If not, would you dedicate a staff member to serve on the Water Smart committee to plan, monitor and evaluate activities?	
Offer free or a sliding fee scale for swim lessons at your aquatic facility to families who are unable to pay?	
Know if the schools in your community participate in the Swim Central program?	
Know if the pediatricians in your community distribute the Water Smart Safety booklet?	
Know if the licensed child care providers in your community provide parents/guardians with the Swim Central Water Safety Survey?	
Publish a monthly newsletter for citizens highlighting various safety campaigns?	
If yes, do you have a water safety campaign or theme highlighted?	
If yes, is adult supervision emphasized as the primary strategy to protect children from drowning?	
If yes, do you feature a water safety campaign at the start of the summer season?	
If yes, do you feature a water safety campaign outside of the summer season?	
If not, do you realize that in 2014 there were zero drowning fatalities among children ages 1-4 during June, July, August? (70% occurred January – May; 30% occurred October-December)	
Provide drowning preparedness information/education to your residents?	
Promote homeowners with pools (in or above ground, or portable) to make regular safety inspections?	
Highlight safety precautions related to drain entrapment among residential pool and spa owners?	
Know public pools in Broward County are inspected twice annually, however, that includes only public pools built after May, 2004?	
Have a system to inspect, monitor or accept reports of pool safety issues at apartment complexes, and condominium and HOA pools built prior to May, 2004?	
Have a standardized procedure to report fatal and non-fatal drowning incidents from law enforcement officers, fire rescuers and emergency medical professionals that are called to a drowning incident?	

** CPR training would not be for certification, but for knowledge of how to respond effectively to a pediatric drowning emergency (not hands on).*

What do you perceive your community is doing well to promote water safety?

What procedures, systems, policies make your community Water Smart?

What do you perceive to be drowning risks in your community?

What water safety practices, systems and policies are missing in your community?



Test Your Water Smart IQ

Answer questions with a true or false response

(Correct answers with explanations will be posted on <http://www.watersmartbroward.org/>)

1. If a child is missing, immediately search locations with water.
2. Once children learn to swim, it is safe for them to be supervised by an older child.
3. A child is safe in and around the water as long as there is one adult present, and especially if there are multiple adults.
4. Children having trouble in the water will scream and yell for help, so it is okay to read a magazine, send text messages, or talk on the phone.
5. Unsupervised children physically cannot enter a pool surrounded by a fence.
6. My child is safe from drowning because he/she is indoors with me.
7. Drowning only happens to families who do not know better.
8. My pool/yard is fenced, or I live in a community with a common pool and the gate requires a key to open therefore my children are safe from drowning.
9. When swimming with a lifeguard on duty, I know that the lifeguard is the main person responsible to supervise swimmers.
10. It is okay for my child to swim without me if he/she swims with a friend or an older sibling who is a good swimmer.
11. Swim lessons teach a child survival skills that drown proof them.
12. Once children learn to swim, they never need additional lessons.
13. Using flotation devices are a great way to teach children to swim.
15. As long as I know "hands only" CPR, I am competent to rescue a drowning victim.
16. The first thing to do if you see a drowning victim is to call 9-1-1.
17. Signals of a person in trouble in the water are waving hands, screaming and splashing.
18. Even though a child cannot swim, as long as they stay in water waist high, they are safe.
19. Drowning is an accident.
20. Most children drown during a recreational swim activity.



Steps to Become a Water Smart Community

Water Smart Broward is an initiative to create a water safety culture within local communities that will protect young children from fatal and nonfatal drowning. Through integrated efforts and education, residents will learn drowning prevention is everyone's responsibilities.

Communities refers to any group with shared interests such as neighborhoods, professional groups, community based organization, businesses, local municipalities and county government.

Become a Water Smart Partner:

1. Designate a point of contact or an agency from your municipality or group.
2. Contact the Florida Department of Health in Broward County to set up a meeting.
3. Review a scope of possible activities. Determine the level of participation your resources will support.
4. Develop a 12-month plan of activities. Suggested activities:
 - a. Conduct an annual event, such as April Pool's Day and/or Kids Safety Fair
 - b. Provide Water Smart messages in newsletters, local TV stations, city social media, utility bills, and in Parks & Recreation publications.
 - c. Train the Trainer for city workers, fire fighters, law enforcement and other groups to learn to recognize compromised pool safety at sites they may visit or within their own neighborhoods.
 - d. Sponsor infant/child CPR training including rescue breaths to community members at least once per year.
 - e. Link your website to <http://www.watersmartbroward.org/>
5. Distribute press release announcing Water Smart partnership.
6. Utilize Water Smart Broward branding to drive awareness, credibility and commitment to Water Smart Broward participation.
7. Meet as required to plan, monitor, report and evaluate.

Contact:

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