

Community Water Recreation Safety Checklist

Date:

Community Information

Name (e.g. county, city, region, neighborhood):

City/Town:

County:

Check all that apply:

Notes:

Public Beaches and Pools

Public Beach with a designated swim area (e.g. swim area at a lake, river, ocean, inland saltwater)

Number available:

Indoor Public Pools

Number available:

Outdoor Public Pools

Number available:

Lifeguards

Lifeguards at Public Beaches

Number of beaches with lifeguards:

Number of beaches that need lifeguards:

Lifeguards at Indoor Public Pools

Number:

Lifeguards at Outdoor Public Pools

Number:

Swimming and Water Safety Skills

Free Swimming Lessons: Public Pool Public Beach Other:

Reduced Fee Swimming Lessons: Public Pool Public beach Other:

Swimming and Water Safety Offered in Public School Physical Education (PE)

State requires taking swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS

School district requires taking swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS

Schools require taking swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS

Schools offer swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS

Swimming and Water Safety Competency Required in Public Schools

State requires swimming/water safety competency: Elementary MS HS

School district requires swimming/water safety competency: Elementary MS HS

Schools require swimming/water safety competency: Elementary MS HS

Water Safety Education

Public Health Dept, Safe Kids Coalition, or Other Organization Provides Water Safety Information to the Community

Information is tailored to local risks

Information is available in other languages and/or culturally tailored

Life Jacket Loaner Programs

Life Jacket Loaner Programs Available in Boating Areas

Number available:

Life Jacket Loaner Programs Available in Swimming Areas

Number available:

Additional Information and Acknowledgements

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Instructions

The Community Water Recreation Checklist is designed to help you assess water safety within your community (e.g. neighborhood, town, city, district, or county). The checklist can help you identify existing water recreation safety measures and identify actions to improve water recreation safety in your community. To complete the Checklist, take these steps:

1. Define the community (e.g. neighborhood, town, city, district, or county).
2. Identify organizations and individuals who can help you fill out the form. You may need to obtain information from multiple sources (e.g. phone calls, visits to open water sites, internet research).
3. Fill out the checklist by marking each item that is available in the community and writing in the number or description of the item as applicable. Take notes as needed.
4. Take a moment to reflect on and write down the successes and challenges to water recreation safety in your community.
5. Identify and write down immediate, short-term, and long-term actions to improve water recreation safety in your community.
6. Use the information gathered and actions identified to plan your local-level program, system and/or policy change, and to propose changes to policy makers.

Terms Defined

Child Death Review (CDR): CDR is process where a multidisciplinary team conducts comprehensive reviews of child deaths to identify circumstances leading to the death, to identify ways to prevent deaths, and to improve interagency coordination around children's health and safety. CDR is a valuable tool to understand drowning among children and teens within a community and to use data to develop drowning prevention interventions.

Designated Marine Patrol: City and county law enforcement agencies can designate law enforcement officers to marine patrol. When law enforcement officers work in marine patrol law, they are responsible for enforcing laws and public safety on and around the water within a county or city. Designated marine patrol dedicates staff and resources to water safety and can keep a community safer.

Life Jackets: Life Jackets or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) refer to those approved by the US Coast Guard. Life jackets do not refer to water wings, inner tubes, or other non-approved wearable floating devices. Data shows most

people who drown were not wearing a life jacket. Life jackets give protection for anyone regardless of swimming ability and water recreation activity.

Life Jacket Loaner Programs: Life jacket Loaner Programs provide U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets for the public to use while in, on or near the water. Life jacket Loaner Programs are often found at a boat ramp or dock, beach or other locations such as a fire department or hospital. Some life jacket loaner programs have someone who checks them out, while others use the honor system and have lifejackets on a self-serve display that people borrow and return when finished.

Safety Signage: Safety signage refers to signs that inform the public about hazardous water and environmental conditions. Signs often include pictures of the hazard and, in areas where multiple languages are spoken, signs can be in multiple languages. Signs are not effective alone. They are most useful when placed close to the hazard or water and tied to other education, media, policies, etc.

Zero Tolerance: Zero tolerance means that law enforcement officers give tickets to people who violate life jacket and/or BUI laws.

