

# Community Open Water Safety Report Card

## Instructions

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Thank you for participating in this pilot project to test the draft Community Open Water Safety Report Card (“community report card”). The report card is designed to help assess water safety within a community. The assessment can help you identify actions to improve water safety within the community. To complete this report card, take these steps:

1. Obtain training from the Washington State Department of Health and Seattle Children’s Hospital.
2. Identify organizations and individuals that can help you fill out the report card. You may need to obtain information from multiple sources (e.g. phone calls, visits to open water sites, internet research).
3. Define the community (e.g. neighborhood, district, county, town, or city).
4. Fill out the report card by marking yes or no for each item. Where applicable, write down the number of sites that have the “item” in the community (e.g. lifeguards) and write the number of sites that need the “item” in the community. Take notes as needed.
5. Take a moment to reflect on and write down the successes and challenges to water safety in this community.
6. Identify and write down immediate, short-term, and long-term actions to improve water safety in this community.
7. Use the information gathered and actions identified to plan your local-level policy change, state-level policy change, and presentation to policy makers.
8. Make copies of the completed form as needed.
9. Return the completed assessment to your Safe Kids Coordinator.

**Completed By**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Information**

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**Community Name** (e.g. neighborhood, town, city, county): \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Town:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No	# of Sites in Community	Additional # Needed in Community	Notes
<b>Designated Swim Area (Bathing Beach Only)</b>					
Bathing beaches have designated swim areas					
Designated swim areas are clear of rocks, stumps, and other hazards					
Designated swim areas have clear, visible depth markers					
Beaches are glass free					
Other:					
<b>Site Closure</b>					
Sites closed during hazardous conditions or high water					
Dangerous area at sites are fenced, blocked, or closed					
Other:					
<b>Safety Signage</b>					
Sign indicating lifeguard on duty at bathing beaches					
Sign indicating lifeguard hours of operation at bathing beaches					
Sign indicating no lifeguard on duty at bathing beaches					
Sign indicating hazardous conditions at open water sites					

	Yes	No	# of Sites in Community	Additional # Needed in Community	Notes
Sign indicating allowed water activities at open water sites					
Sign indicating prohibited water activities at open water sites					
Sign indicating allowed shore activities at open water sites					
Sign indicating prohibited shore activities at open water sites					
Sign indicating dangerous areas at open water sites					
Signs are standard (e.g. look the same) across open water sites					

Other:

### Lifeguards

Indoor public pools with lifeguards					
Outdoor public pools with lifeguards					
Public beaches with lifeguards					

Other:

### Life Jackets

Life jacket loaner programs available					
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	Yes	No	# of Sites in Community	Additional # Needed in Community	Notes
Mandatory life jacket use (above state law mandate for age 12 and under in small boats)					
Mandatory life jacket use on high risk/high use waterways					Describe and attach any applicable local laws or statutes

Other:

### Enforcement

Marine patrol has zero tolerance policy for child life jacket law violations					
Marine patrol has zero tolerance policy for boating under the influence (BUI) law					

Other:

### Surveillance

Active Child Death Review (CDR) team					
Active CDR team that tracks drowning					

Other:

### Swimming Skills and Water Safety Education

Swimming lessons available at pools					
Swimming lesson scholarships available					
Swimming lessons available at bathing beaches					

	Yes	No	# of Sites in Community	Additional # Needed in Community	Notes
Swimming lessons offered in school					
Swimming lessons required by school / school district					Describe:

Other:

**Physical Open Water Barriers**

Irrigation ditches are fenced to prevent access					
208 swales (holding ponds for water runoff) are fenced					
Other public water sites are fenced to prevent access					

Other:

**Partnerships**

Coalition or network of people/organizations who work on drowning prevention					
Safe Kids Coalition with a focus on open water drowning prevention					

Other:

## Successes

*What is this community doing well? What procedures, systems, and/or policies make this community's open waters safe?*

## Challenges

*What is preventing open water safety in this community? What procedures, systems, and/or policies make this community's open waters unsafe?*

## Next Steps

*What more can be done to promote water safety in this community? How will you or your organization promote changes in procedures, systems, and/or policies to improve water safety in this community? Identify immediate, short-term, and long-term actions that will make this community safer for water recreation.*

Immediate

Short-Term

Long-Term

**Thank you for completing the report card and for helping make Washington State's open waters safer!!**