



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 2021

Drowning Prevention Month

This summer, many Californians will enjoy water-based recreation such as swimming. While I encourage Californians to enjoy these activities and the warm weather, it is important that we all keep safe and vigilant to prevent drowning.

According to the Drowning Prevention Foundation, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among California children ages four and under, with an average of more than 50 new deaths per year. Two-thirds of all drowning accidents occur from May to August. Children and adults who survive near-drowning accidents often suffer permanent brain damage. The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) currently provides services to nearly 800 survivors of near-drowning accidents who require lifelong assistance.

I urge all Californians to learn how to prevent drowning, a critical step in keeping children safe. There is often no warning or splashing sounds associated with drowning incidents. It is important to teach children survival skills, ensure they have constant supervision by an adult in and around water, install isolation fencing and alarms around pool areas and know how to respond in an emergency. Basic training in water rescue skills, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) could save a life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom