

ASK A FIREFIGHTER: WATER SAFETY, 05-19-09

It is Memorial Day weekend and summer already seems to be in full swing. School is out for several students, the Valley is experiencing high temperatures and several people are looking forward to a much anticipated long weekend. Families will enjoy their swimming pools or perhaps the nearest lake for a great time and a cool escape from the heat. While the Glendale Fire Department encourages families to have a great time this weekend and throughout the summer months, we also remind families of the importance of water safety. From 2000 to 2008, an average of 20 children has died each year in Maricopa County due to drowning. For everyone child lost, several other children will live with lifelong disabilities due to near drowning. According to the *Children's Safety Zone*, as of May 13th of this year, 8 deaths, including 4 children, have resulted from 40 water related incidents in Maricopa County. Drowning incidents are painful especially for the child and family but for everyone involved including first responders and the entire community. Please use the following safety tips to increase the safety of your family this summer.

- Children and Adults, PLEASE learn to swim
- Learn CPR
- Realize that eye to eye supervision is the best way to keep your children safe and practice it
- Never leave children unattended around any body of water
- Never swim alone
- Close toilet lids and empty water buckets
- Secure doors, gates and pet doors that are leading to the pool area
- Empty inflatable pools when not in use

The Glendale Fire Department thanks our Armed Forces for their dedication, hard work and sacrifice this Memorial Day weekend and thanks the community for your continued support.