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May 15, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Drowning Prevention Week and May Day CPR

Free May day CPR Event on Saturday at El Paso Fire Training Academy

EL PASO, TX-The El Paso Fire Department, Price's Creameries, and the Drowning Prevention Coalition of El Paso will host a free May Day CPR Event on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the El Paso Fire Academy located at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta Dr.

The event will have twenty minute sessions of teaching hands only CPR taught by the El Paso Fire Department with the support of the American Red Cross starting at 10:00 a.m. There will also be a family, fun atmosphere of a jumping balloon, music, free food, refreshments, door prizes from Wet 'n Wild Waterworld, free sandwich coupons from Chick – Fil-A., ice cream, and much more.

The week of May 14-20th is Drowning Prevention Week as the Coalition will be out speaking to over 16,000 children in public and private schools in the city about water safety and understanding the importance of the words "Respect the Water."

The Drowning Prevention Coalition of El Paso was formed in 2010 through the efforts of Laura and Eddie Castle, parents of Christian Castle, who drowned in 2007. The mission of the Coalition is to promote, develop and support training and community education efforts that prevent drowning, non-fatal drownings and other water related incidents in El Paso County and the surrounding areas.

Information (915) 820-9712

Media Contact: Rick Isaias
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
915.212.1077

Water Safety Tips by Drowning Prevention Coalition of El Paso



General Water Safety

- Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone.
- Read and obey all rules and posted signs.
- Swim in areas that are supervised by a lifeguard.
- Children or inexperienced swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets when around water.
- Watch out for the “dangerous too’s” – too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.
- Be knowledgeable of the water environment you are in and its potential hazards.
- Know how to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies.
- Use a feet first entry when entering the water.
- Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating.
- Wear sun-block and re-apply often.

Parent Water Safety

- Maintain constant supervision.
- Stay within arm’s reach of an inexperienced swimmer while he or she is in the water.
- Do not rely on substitutes. The use of flotation devices and inflatable toys cannot replace parental supervision.
- Prevent access to water features: swimming pools, buckets of water, ponds, etc.
- Use safety locks on toilets and keep toilet lids down if there are small children in your home.
- Empty cleaning buckets immediately after use.
- Teach children how to swim.
- Learn CPR and first aid.
- Set rules for the water and adhere to them.
- Empty kiddie pools immediately after use.

Home Pool Safety

- Learn to swim and swim well.
- Never leave a child unattended who may gain access to the water.
- Teach your children that the pool area is off-limits without an adult present.
- Adult supervision at all times.
- Pool Security: fencing, gates, doors, windows and covers.
- Keep toys away from the pool area and keep the deck area free of clutter.
- If a child is missing, always check the pool first.
- Emergency Action Procedures: learn CPR and First Aid, have lifesaving equipment available, have a well-stocked first aid kit available, post CPR and First Aid signs, and have a cordless phone accessible.
- Do not allow diving.
- Water chemistry: keep the pool water clean and clear and store pool chemicals in childproof containers and out of children’s reach.

“Respect the Water...Children Drown in Silence”

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Water Safety Tips by Drowning Prevention Coalition of El Paso



Water Park Safety

- Be sure the area is well supervised by lifeguards and follow their rules & directions.
- Read all posted signs.
- Always accompany and supervise children on all attractions & pools.
- Make note of the water depth before entering an attraction.
- Know the height requirements for attractions.
- Know your own and your child's swimming abilities.
- Be aware that some attractions have moving water and require swimming skills.
- Always go face up and feet first down a slide.
- If you cannot swim or are a weak swimmer- always use U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Wait until the lifeguard signals that it's safe for you to proceed on an attraction.

El Paso Water Precautions

- Never play in drainage ditches or arroyos, even when dry.
- Do not allow children to play near or in a river or another body of water, including ponds, channels and drains.
- Do not swim in canals or ponding area.
- Turn around, don't drown. Do not drive on flooded streets.
- During heavy rains, alleys, backyards, streets and sunken areas can fill with water. Tell children not to play in these areas.
- Pools need to be surrounded with secure fencing with no areas of entrance.
- Never underestimate the water currents in a river, channel or a drain.
- Backyard ponds are deep enough for toddlers to fall into.
- Small disposable pools should be emptied and turned over when not in use.
- Only U.S. Coastguard approved flotation devices should be worn whenever a non-swimmer is in, on, or around the water.

Top 10 Safety Station Supplies

- First Aid Kit
- CPR Poster
- First Aid Instructions
- Reaching Pole/Shepherd's Hook
- Heaving line/throw bag
- Pool Rules Posted
- Emergency numbers posted with address
- Cordless Telephone
- Emergency Shut-Off Sign
- Personal Flotation Devices

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