

## POOL SAFETY MESSAGE



Millions of us enjoy the warm weather every year by swimming in our backyard pools and relaxing in hot tubs. Tragically though, over 200 children drown in backyard swimming pools each year. The American Red Cross suggests owners



make pool safety their priority by following these guidelines:

- \* Secure your pool with appropriate barriers. Completely surround your pool with a 4-foot-high fence or barrier with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Place a safety cover on the pool or hot tub when not in use and remove any ladders or steps used for access. Consider installing a pool alarm that goes off if anyone enters the pool.
- \* Keep children under active supervision at all times. Stay within arm's reach of kids. Designate a responsible person to watch the water when people are in the pool.
- \* Never allow anyone to swim alone. Have young or inexperienced swimmers wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- \* Ensure everyone in the home knows how to swim well by enrolling them in age-appropriate water orientation and learn-to-swim courses from the American Red Cross.
- \* Keep your pool or hot tub water clean and clear. Maintain proper chemical levels, circulation and filtration. Regularly test and adjust the chemical levels to minimize the risk of earaches, rashes or more serious diseases.
- \* Establish and enforce rules and safe behaviors, such as "no diving," "stay away from drain covers," "swim with a buddy" and "walk please."
- \* Ensure everyone in the home knows how to respond to aquatic emergencies by having appropriate safety equipment and taking water safety, first aid and CPR courses from the American Red Cross.
- \* Add gate and door alarms to any entry to the pool area. Pool entry gates must open out away from pool so that if a child leans against it the gate will close rather than open giving them access to the unsupervised pool.
- \* Pool alarms are required by code in our area. There must sufficient alarms to cover every square foot of the pool surface.
- \* Add an SVRS (Safety Vacuum Release System) pump or device to ensure that your family can't be trapped to the bottom of the pool by suction.
- \* Always make sure that your main drain cover is in-place and that it is VGB compliant to prevent curious children from danger such as suction and hair entrapment.