



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The West Hartford Fire Department is committed to fire prevention and community safety. Reaching out to the people we serve is important because the information we offer may result in a fire being prevented or life being saved.

Swimming pools are a great way to have both fun and exercise with friends and family. And while we have a number of public pools in our community, backyard pools have become increasingly popular. If you have a pool you have the responsibility of safeguarding and supervising it. Being careful isn't enough. You must be committed to being compliant to regulations and diligent in protecting children in and around the pool area. Here are a few tips that we, and the experts in the Building Department, suggest you consider:

- Never leave a child unattended. Always make sure there's an adult within arm's reach of any child in and around the pool.
- Install the appropriate fencing with self-latching gates, safety covers, and alarms on and around your pool.
- Ensure all pools have proper fitting drain covers.
- Teach children how to swim. Enroll children in swim lessons when they are ready, considering their age and development.
- Make sure that you and a designated Water Watcher know what to do in case of an emergency. Have a phone nearby in case you need to call 911.
- Consider learning CPR and basic water rescue skills because you may need those skill to help save a life.

We want you to enjoy these warm months in your cool pool and we also want you to be safe. Following these precautions will give you peace of mind knowing that you have tools that can help you avoid contributing to tragic drowning statistics. These tips are not only useful with pools, but also apply to hot tubs and kiddie pools, so have fun will all ages.

If you have any questions regarding the safety of your swimming pool and the surrounding area, please contact the Building Department directly at 860.561.7530.

Thank you for joining the West Hartford Fire and the West Harford Building Departments in our effort to keep this community safe.

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