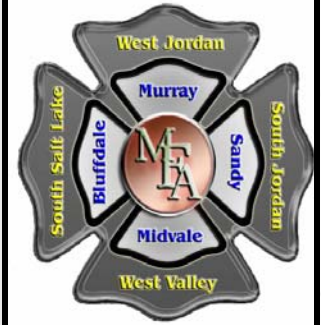




# DROWNING FACT SHEET



## Water-Related Injuries

- According to the CDC, in 2002, there were 3,447 unintentional drowning in the United States, averaging nine people per day (this does not include drowning in boating-related incidents).
- Two-thirds of all drowning victims never intended to get into the water.
- Most drowning incidents occur between May and August.
- Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury related deaths to children ages 1 to 14 years.
- Children age 5 to 14 most often drown at open-water sites (streams, lakes, ponds, etc).
- In Utah, from 2003 to 2005, 35 children age 19 and under died in drowning incidents.

## Utah Headlines

- **05/06:** A 15-year-old girl dies after falling into Big Cottonwood Creek.
- **05/06:** A 2-year-old boy drowned after falling into the Sevier River.
- **05/06:** Two 5-year-old boys are plucked from the Duchense River after wandering away from a preschool.
- **04/06:** A 26-year-old man dies when his canoe capsizes in the Jordan River.
- **04/06:** A 2-year-old boy is found submerged beneath the frigid waters of Farmington Creek.
- **04/06:** A 23-year-old man dies in the Virgin River after the canoe he was riding in overturned.



## Boating Quick Facts

- In 2003, 703 people died in boating incidents; 68% of these individuals drowned.
- It is estimated that more than 400 lives could have been saved in 2003 if all boaters had worn life jackets.

## Drowning Prevention Tips

- Teach children to swim after age 4.
- Educate children and adults about water safety.
- Install multiple layers of protection around pools and spas.
- Designate an adult to **actively** supervise kids around water.
- Never let a young child bathe alone or rely on an older child for supervision.
- Consider your swimming ability before you get into the water.
- Wear a life jacket when in a boat especially a small boat and when swimming across a river or lake.
- Complete an infant and child CPR Course.

***“Among older children, it’s overwhelmingly boys who drown, most often in lakes and rivers, sometimes because they think they are stronger swimmers than they really are.”***

*Patti O’Connor, Director of Preparedness Programs for the Greater Salt Lake Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.*