

Community Water Recreation Safety Checklist

Date:

Community Information

Name (e.g. county, city, region, neighborhood):

City/Town:

County:

Check all that apply:

Notes:

Public Beaches and Pools

Public Beach (e.g. swim area at a lake, river, ocean, inland saltwater)
Number available:

Indoor Public Pools
Number available:

Outdoor Public Pools
Number available:

Lifeguards

Lifeguards at Public Beaches
Number of beaches with lifeguards:
Number of beaches that need lifeguards:

Lifeguards at Indoor Public Pools

Lifeguards at Outdoor Public Pools

Swimming and Water Safety Skills

Free Swimming Lessons: Public pool Public beach Other:

Reduced Fee Swimming Lessons: Public pool Public beach Other:

Swimming and Water Safety Offered in Public School Physical Education (PE)
State requires taking swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS
School district requires taking swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS
Schools require taking swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS
Schools offer swimming in PE: Elementary MS HS

Swimming and Water Safety Competency Required in Public Schools
State requires swimming competency: Elementary MS HS
School district requires swimming competency: Elementary MS HS
Schools require swimming competency: Elementary MS HS

Water Safety Education

Public Health Dept, Safe Kids Coalition, or Other Organization Provides Water Safety Information to the Community
 Information is tailored to local risks
 Information is available in other languages and/or culturally appropriate

Life Jacket Loaner Programs

Life Jacket Loaner Programs Available
Number available:

Laws and Enforcement

Designated Marine Patrol (Law Enforcement) Summer All Year

Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Law Includes: Implied Consent
 Fine ≥ \$1,000 Tie to Boater Registration and/or Driver's License

Law Requires the Following Groups to Wear Life Jackets: <13 years old
 <18 years old Boats <17 feet All Paddlecraft All Persons on Rivers

Zero Tolerance for Law Violations BUI Life Jackets

Surveillance

Active Child Death Review (CDR) Team Tracks and Reviews Drownings

<input type="checkbox"/> Other Group(s) Track and Review Drownings Describe:	
Safety Signage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Signs at Bathing Beaches	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Signs are Standardized Across Community	
Physical Open Water Barriers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canals, Water Retention Ponds, or Other Problematic Open Water Sites are Blocked to Prevent Access	
Partnerships	
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Coalition or Network that Works on Drowning Prevention Describe:	

Successes

What is your community doing well? What procedures, systems, and/or policies make water recreation in your community safer?

Challenges

What are the water safety risks in your community? What water safety procedures, systems, and/or policies are missing from your community?

Next Steps

What more can be done improve water safety in your community? What procedures, systems, and/or policies need to be in place to make this community safer? Identify immediate, short-term, and long-term actions that will make your community safer.

Additional Information and Acknowledgements

For additional forms and info on the checklist, visit the policy section of: <http://www.seattlechildrens.org/dp>

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Instructions

The Community Water Recreation Checklist is designed to help you assess water safety within your community (e.g. neighborhood, town, city, district, or county). The checklist can help you identify existing water recreation safety measures and identify actions to improve water recreation safety in your community. To complete the Checklist, take these steps:

1. Define the community (e.g. neighborhood, town, city, district, or county).
2. Identify organizations and individuals who can help you fill out the form. You may need to obtain information from multiple sources (e.g. phone calls, visits to open water sites, internet research).
3. Fill out the checklist by marking each item that is available in the community and writing in the number or description of the item as applicable. Take notes as needed.
4. Take a moment to reflect on and write down the successes and challenges to water recreation safety in your community.
5. Identify and write down immediate, short-term, and long-term actions to improve water recreation safety in your community.
6. Use the information gathered and actions identified to plan your local-level policy change, state-level policy change, and to propose changes to policy makers. You can also use this information for program change, such as adding a life jacket loaner program or lifeguards.

If you are interested in assessing the safety a body of water (e.g. lake, river, etc) in your community, you can complete a Swim Area Safety Checklist, which can be found on the policy section of <http://www.seattlechildrens.org/dp>.

Terms Defined

Child Death Review (CDR): CDR is process where a multidisciplinary team conducts comprehensive reviews of child deaths to identify circumstances leading to the death, to identify ways to prevent deaths, and to improve interagency coordination around children's health and safety. CDR is a valuable tool to understand drowning among children and teens within a community and to use data to develop drowning prevention interventions.

Designated Marine Patrol: City and county law enforcement agencies can designate law enforcement officers to marine patrol. When law enforcement officers work in marine patrol law, they are responsible for enforcing laws and public safety on and around the water within a county or city. Designated marine patrol dedicates staff and resources to water safety and can keep a community safer.

Life Jackets: Life Jackets or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) refer to those approved by the US Coast Guard. Life jackets do not refer to water wings, inner tubes, or other non-approved wearable floating devices. Data shows most people who drown were not wearing a life jacket. Life jackets give protection for anyone regardless of swimming ability and water recreation activity.

Life Jacket Loaner Programs: Life jacket Loaner Programs provide U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets for the public to use while in, on or near the water. Life jacket Loaner Programs are often found at a beach or other locations such as a fire department or hospital. Some life jacket loaner programs have someone who checks them out, while others use the honor system and have lifejackets on a self-serve display that people borrow and return when finished.

Safety Signage: Safety signage refers to signs that inform the public about hazardous water and environmental conditions. Signs often include pictures of the hazard and, in areas where multiple languages are spoken, signs can be in multiple languages. Signs are most useful when placed close to the hazard or water.

Zero Tolerance: Zero tolerance means that law enforcement officers give tickets to people who violate life jacket and/or BUI laws.