

## HOME POOL SAFETY

Backyard swimming pools provide fun and recreation for millions of homeowners as well as their families and friends.

Unfortunately, drowning is currently the fourth common cause of death from unintentional injury in the United States. In fact, approximately 5,000 people drown every year and another 20,000 near drownings result in hospitalizations.

You can reduce the chance of such accidents by taking proper precautions in and around your pool.

## POOL SAFETY TIPS

The Miamisburg Fire Department offers the following tips to help you avoid and respond to pool-related emergencies:

-  Always provide children with constant adult supervision when they are in or around the pool. In many child drownings, guardians stated that the child was out of sight for only a few minutes. If you must leave the pool for any reason (even if you think it will only take a second), take the child with you.
-  Childproof your pool with fences, walls, and locked gates.
-  Make sure that each member of your family knows how to swim. Take a course in CPR.

-  Properly mark the depth of the water.
-  If you have an above ground pool, remove the steps when the pool is not in use.
-  Keep toys out of the pool when not in use. They can attract the attention of children.
-  Keep a first aid kit in the pool area.
-  Keep a flotation device with a line attached and a hooked pole near the pool. Know how to properly use them.
-  Don't chew gum or eat while you swim. This could easily lead to choking.
-  Don't allow glass or electrical appliances in the pool area.
-  Never swim alone.
-  Keep a phone near the pool area.
-  Weak swimmers and children should wear a life jacket when in and around the pool.

## RESPONDING TO A POOL EMERGENCY

Once you recognize that there is a pool emergency taking place, quickly check the situation and determine what action is needed. Call 9-1-1 for help.

Never rush into a dangerous situation where you may also put your own safety at risk.

You can help a person who is experiencing trouble in the water by using the following reaching and throwing assistance techniques

### REACHING ASSISTANCE:

Firmly brace yourself on the pool deck and reach out to the victim with any object that will extend your reach (i.e., a towel, reach pole, tree branch, etc.).

If you do not have an object to reach with, lie flat on the pool deck and reach out with your arm.

If you are already in the water, hold on to the pool ladder or some other secure object with one hand, and extend your free hand or one of your legs to the person. Do not release your grasp on the object or swim out into the water.

### THROWING ASSISTANCE:



Any strong line properly coiled and thrown can be used to extend a rescuer's reach by 40 to 50 feet. Lines should be weighted on the thrown end with a plastic jug filled with two (2) inches of water.

If the object has a line attached to it, step on the line with your forward foot. Try to throw the object just beyond the victim, but within reach. When the person has grasped the device, slowly pull him or her to safety.

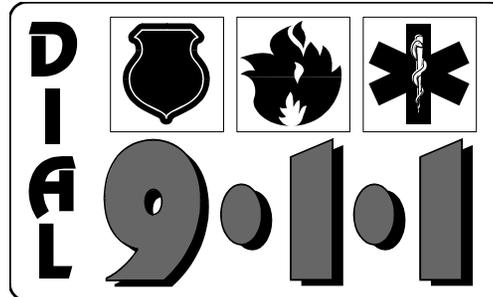
# POOL

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# TIPS



Emergency



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INFORMATION  
OR TO LEARN  
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CPR, FIRST-AID,  
AND HOME  
LIFE SAFETY,  
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