



**American
Red Cross**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Shari Hoover

Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard

(321) 259-4479

Parents Urged to Be Cautious of Toddler Drownings

Melbourne, FL – Three Brevard County toddlers have died in the past five months due to accidental drowning. Two drowned in their home pool and one in a backyard retention pond. The Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard and the Space Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross urge local parents of toddlers to remain alert and vigilant in their everyday responsibilities and heed the following Safety Warnings this Summer:

- Never leave children alone near water.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first.
- Don't expect older siblings to watch toddlers near water.
- Learn infant and child CPR.
- Do not rely on inflatable inner tubes or "water wings" as safety devices.
- Remove pool toys when not in use, as they are an attraction to toddlers.
- Assign someone specific to watch toddlers during a pool party, as pool gates can be unintentionally left open.
- Keep doors to bathrooms and laundry rooms closed.
- Keep toilet lids down.
- Children in baby bath seats and rings must be within arms reach every second.

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“The American Red Cross has specially designed Water Safety Classes for children ages 11-15,” said Jason Ferrell, Director of Health & Safety Services. “I highly recommend these classes if parents are planning to have older siblings or babysitters watch their toddlers this summer. Classes are offered in home or in Brevard County by calling 321-890-1002.”

“Parents know that toddlers are fascinated by water and that they can be out of your sight in the blink of an eye,” said Diane MacEntee, Executive Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center of Brevard. “There’s no replacing appropriate supervision. It is the responsibility of those in charge to watch them and play an active part in keeping them safe.”

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Brevard intervenes in the most severe cases of child abuse in Brevard County by uniting child protection specialists from multiple agencies under one roof in a child-friendly environment.

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