

## DROWNING

Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death of children ages 1 to 14. Every year, approximately 760 children ages 14 and under die as a result of accidental drowning. More than 60 percent are under age 5.

- ❑ Drowning occurs quickly and silently — A child can drown in a matter of seconds and cannot cry or shout for help. A child will lose consciousness within two minutes under water; permanent brain damage occurs after four to six minutes.
- ❑ For every child who drowns, two are hospitalized for near-drowning; up to 20 percent of near-drowning survivors suffer permanent brain damage, and 15 percent of children hospitalized for near-drowning die in the hospital.
- ❑ Each year, over 200 children ages 4 and under drown in residential swimming pools in the United States. Most children who drown in swimming pools were last seen in the home, had been missing from sight for less than five minutes and were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning.
- ❑ From 1985 to 2004, at least 33 children died and nearly 100 were seriously injured as a result of being trapped underwater by the suction of a pool or spa drain.



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