

## Educating the Community at a Family Water Safety Day



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## Drowning



THE MORNING CALL, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2001

- Called the silent death
  - So quickly
  - So quietly
  - Happens before parent realizes they are missing

**NORTH WHITEHALL**  
**4-year-old's drowning is ruled an accident**  
 A 4-year-old Bethlehem girl who drowned in a pool at a North Whitehall Township residence Monday had been playing in the back yard when she fell in, state police at Bethlehem said.

Marin Nikoleava was found at the bottom of a swimming pool at 2132 Ranch Road by someone working at the house, police said. Lehigh County Coroner Scott Grim ruled Nikoleava's death accidental due to drowning.

Nikoleava's mother, who also worked at the house, had not heard her daughter for several minutes and had begun to search the house. Emergency workers tried unsuccessfully to revive the child, police said.

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## Statistics



- 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of injury related death for children ages 1-14
  - 1:8 boys and 1:23 girls will need intervention to prevent a drowning
  - 1:300 boys and 1:900 girls will be hospitalized for near drowning
  - 1:1,100 boys and 1:3,300 girls will drown.
  - African-American children ages 5-19 drown at 2.5x rate of Caucasian children

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## Water Safety Campaigns

- Classroom National Programs
  - Red Cross Whales Tales
    - Ages 6-12
    - Video and work sheets
  - Gus and Goldie Water Safety Program
    - Ages 3-7
    - Video, puppet show, coloring book- classroom
- State campaigns
  - Florida, Arizona and mostly southern states
- International
  - Australia

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## Family Water Safety Day

Allentown, PA

- Purpose
  - To educate the Lehigh Valley residents to the inherent dangers associated with backyard pools, ponds, lakes, canals, rivers and bathtubs.
  - To teach elementary forms of rescue and other self help techniques to aid in an aquatic emergency
  - To teach safe boating practices

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## Organization

- Committee representatives
  - Swim-in Zone, Inc.
  - City of Allentown
  - Red Cross
- 50m pool in city of Allentown
- Saturday in July
- Publicity
  - Newspaper, radio
  - Scouts Groups, Community Events
  - Posters, Flyers



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## Financial

- City of Allentown
- Contributions
  - PA Fish and Boat Commission
  - American Red Cross
  - Safe Kids of Allentown, Bethlehem
  - Swim-in Zone, Inc.
  - Emmaus Aquatic Club
  - Binney and Smith
  - McDonalds

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## Stations

### Choking and Rescue Breathing

Objectives

- Non-breathing Victims
- Obstructed Airway



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## Presenters and Volunteers

City of Allentown Bureaus of Public Health and Recreation

- Allentown Paramedics
- Lifeguards
- Red Cross
- Swim-in Zone, Inc.
- Rodale Aquatic Center
- Emmaus Aquatic Club
- Allentown and Bethlehem Area Safe Kids Coalition

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## Boating

### Objectives

- Boating regulations
- Safety equipment
- Balance in boats
- Planning a trip
- River dangers
- Rescues



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## Lifejacket

### Objectives

- Function and laws
- Sizing and types of lifejackets
- Floating and swimming



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## Spinal Injury Prevention

### Objectives

- Function of spine
- How injuries occur
- Prevention
- Recognition
- Care
- Diving board safety



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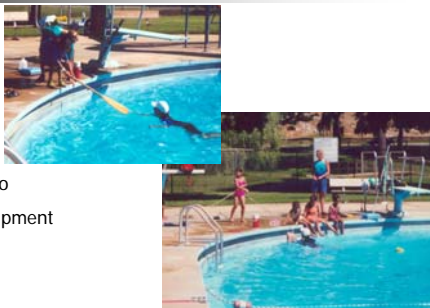
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## Simple Rescues

- Objectives
- Recognition
- Position of safety
- Reach, throw, go
- Improvised equipment



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## Mock Drowning Scenario



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## Conclusion

- Participants can stay the rest of the day and swim for free.
- Goodie bags or other hand outs.
- Evaluation forms to parents



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**Water Safety Made Simple**

- Fence the pool
- Shut the gate
- Learn how to swim, it's great
- Supervise and watch your mate
- Learn how to resuscitate



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**Evaluations**

- Parent evaluations
  - Importance of days activities
  - Time to practice
  - Glad their children participated
- Staff evaluations
  - Surprised at questions of parents
  - Worthwhile use of their time

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**Questions?**

**Contact Information**

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