



Lifejacket! < No.2 >



Submitted by Coach George Young on 06-28-2011

The science of pure #'s along with a few no brainer visionary concepts and drowning in the USA may drop in numbers reported. Please review the Water Safety tip on our website under Water Safety Tips named "Lifejacket" submitted on 5-17-11 (scroll below). A simple drowning person can quickly and silently drop below the surface of the water. And more times than not a drowning person will not scream! (According the Colin's Hope Foundation). The numbers are not too pleasant to look at..... drowning for the 5 and under age group is the leading cause of accidental death. Ellis & Associates, who is a lifeguarding training organization organized and performed over 500 tests in 90 pools during a recent summer. The alarming findings of the tests were the average response time to recognize and start the response of a lifelike manikin placed on the bottom of an aquatic facility was 1 minute and 14 seconds. Surveillance of patrons in pools is a process that can be enhanced by wearing certified lifejackets.

Dr. Tom Griffiths has done intense research on lifeguards and adults observation skills while watching people using pools. He points out in an article on lifeguarding written in May 2002 that the key to effective lifeguarding is constant vigilance, but the eye opening display of facts in the article highlights just how difficult it is to maintain ultimate vigilance of patron's using pools. The lack of arousal readiness and pure boredom leads to poor surveillance. So this leads to the simple concept of lifejackets will close the gap of non swimmers, below average swimmers and child under 17 years of age participating in recreational swimming will be safer if a certified lifejackets were worn during recreational activities.

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For backyard pools the benchmark approach would be to be very straight forward and use the same guideline theme as the seat belt law for motor cars. If you are under the

AGE of 18 years old and you are swimming in a backyard pool, then the owner of the pool must make sure all youth are wearing a certify lifejackets. The owners are responsible!!!! For adults 18 years and older participants using a backyard pool it is the responsibility of each adult to wear a lifejacket and not the sole responsibility of the adult owner of the house. In a nutshell, the home owner should be responsible for safety of all 17 & unders users of their pool.

Like I mentions during the first part of this article, “I never thought I would say this” Wearing lifejackets is smart and should be used by more public pools and backyard pools should hold the pool’s owner more responsible for supplying and endorsing all parties using the pool to wear a certified—approved lifejacket by the US Coast Guard.

Any time stated certified lifejacket it is applied that the lifejacket that is approved by US Coast Guard.