

# Water Safety Highlights of Summer 2011

**submitted by George Young - September 21, 2011**

- ❖ Please review some of the facts and then read my comments at the end:
- ❖ There were 416 child (12 and under) drowning reported nationwide.
- ❖ An unbelievable 286 drowning were from ages 5 years and under age group.
- ❖ A percentage of over 80% of all drowned, including all ages were male
- ❖ The state of Texas lead all States with 140 drowning reported.
- ❖ The State of California was second on recorded drowning with 115.
- ❖ The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that portable pools pose a “significant risk” of drowning child.

\*\*\*The numbers reported are from the summer season May 1, 2011 and Aug. 26, 2011. Sources for the numbers were gathered info including AP, Goggle, MSN, Alta Vista and local newspapers.

George's take: The stats are in line with years pass. The high speed communication network is making it easier to record and watch the data on drowning. Recently, the true legal definition of a drowning is in the legal pages so we can move forward to review the data.

The data is even now being separated by in ground pools and also portable pools. A lot more rules and laws concerning in ground pools than portable pools. Portable pools will be something that will be a hot point and start to be reviewed and addressed in the future. Serious numbers reflex the young boys that drown each year. Amazing 70% of all drowning are under the age of 5 years old and 70 % of the 5 and unders drowning are boys! What can we do.....maybe swim lessons.....maybe mandatory lifejackets for boys.....maybe just educate the parents of 5 and unders about the high risk of drowning. Year after year the number has not gotten better for this age group. The 5 and under boy is the incredible link in the drowning data in my eyes. Everyone associated with aquatics should be thinking of ways to decrease the high number of drowning that take place for the 5 year and under boys.