



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Drowning Prevention

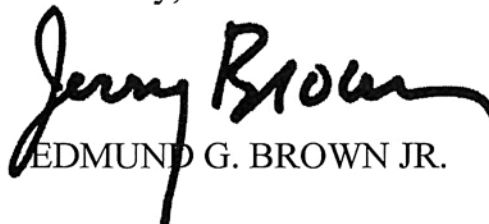
Throughout the summer season, many Californians enjoy activities involving swimming at a pool, river, waterpark or beach. Careful vigilance can prevent tragedy, especially drowning.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about ten people die from unintentional drownings every day in the United States. Drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children ages five and under, with an average of 54 new deaths per year in California.

Additionally, children who survive a near-drowning incident often suffer permanent brain damage. The California Department of Developmental Services currently provides services to 755 survivors of near-drowning accidents who require lifelong supports for their disabilities.

Knowing how to prevent drowning is a critical step in keeping children safe and helping them live to their full potential. I urge Californians to enjoy summer fun, but to follow safety steps, such as teaching children swimming skills, providing constant adult supervision of children in and around water, and providing the protection of fences, latches, poles and personal flotation devices.

Sincerely,


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.