

State of South Carolina

Proclamation

by
Governor Jim Hodges

WHEREAS, despite recent declines in the death rate from drowning among children ages 14 and under, drowning remains the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in this age group and the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1 to 4; and

WHEREAS, though the majority of drownings and near-drownings occur in residential swimming pools and open water sites, children can drown in as little as one inch of water and are, therefore, at risk of drowning in wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, diaper pails, toilets, spas, and hot tubs; and

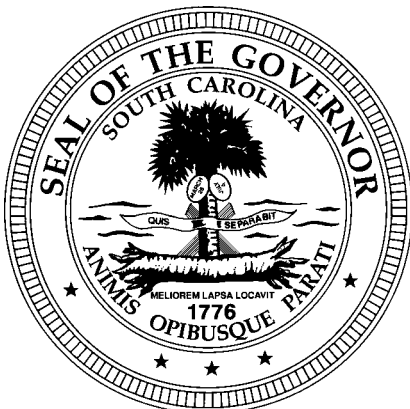
WHEREAS, childhood drownings and near drownings can happen in a matter of seconds and typically occur when a child is left unattended or during a brief lapse in supervision; and

WHEREAS, through education, proper supervision, adequate pool fencing, and the use of personal floatation devices, many drownings and near drownings can be prevented.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 1 – 7, 2003, as

SOUTH CAROLINA WATER SAFETY WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the risks and prevention of drowning to ensure the continued safety of the young people of the Palmetto State.



Jim Hodges

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Governor
State of South Carolina