

From the Fire Chief

Dive Into Pool Safety: Tips To Help Keep Your Family Safe

As the weather heats up, families will seek refuge in the cool waters of their neighborhood or backyard pools. Although there is nothing like a quick dip on a hot summer day, pool season does not come without potential risks. In fact, approximately 4,200 people go to the emergency room every year due to pool or spa-related injuries. This summer Underwriters Laboratories, a leading product safety testing organization, is providing useful tips to help you and your “little minnows” stay safe.

POOL SAFETY AT HOME

- **If you have a pool at home, install a fence.** The fence should be at least four feet high and have a self-closing, self-latching gate that has a locking mechanism beyond a child’s reach.
- **Cut overhanging tree limbs and remove chairs or ladders from the pool area** to prevent children from climbing over the fence that surrounds the pool.
- **Keep grates and drain covers in good repair and secured in place.** Alert your family and guests to stay away from these devices, as the suction from drain outlets can be strong enough to cause entrapment of hair or body parts, which can potentially cause a person to drown.
- **Make sure you know infant and child CPR** if you own a pool.

BE SAFETY SMART WHILE SWIMMING

- **Supervision is a must.** Follow the 10/20 rule when you’re at the pool. The 10/20 rule states that the supervising adult needs to position themselves to be able to scan the pool every 10 seconds and reach the water within 20 seconds. Never swim alone.
- **Always have rescue devices**, such as UL-LISTED life preservers, nearby.
- **Flotation devices, toys and inflatable swimming aids are not safety devices.** They are toys and can easily puncture and deflate.
- **Always drain wading pools after children are done playing.** Infants can drown in just a few inches of water.
- **Have a telephone nearby and appropriate emergency numbers posted.**
- **Remove all toys when you leave the pool.** Toys may attract children to the unattended pool.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU’RE BURNING? YOU COULD BE FINED UP TO \$25,000!

Report Illegal Burning: 1-888-BURN-LAW burnlaw@ky.gov

-----Be Part Of The Solution-----

Common Sense Precautions:

- **Do not** burn within 50 feet of any structure.
- **Do not** burn near streams or sinkholes.
- **Do not** burn near landfills.
- **Do not** burn near utility lines.

Alternatives to Open Burning: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

- Donate old clothes, shoes, books, appliances, electronics, furniture and toys to charity.
- Carry a coffee mug with you instead of disposable cups.
- Bring your own cloth bag to the store.
- Many counties in Kentucky have a community recycling center that accepts some or all of these:
Newspaper, Aluminum, Plastics #1 - #7, Steel, Cardboard, and Glass

Compost

- Leaves and grass clippings can be turned into food for your garden or houseplants.
- Instead of burning old pallets, tie four pallets together to make a simple compost bin.

Landfill

- Items that cannot be reused or recycled should be taken to the landfill. Many counties have one day a month FREE of charge. Contact your local solid waste coordinator for more information or visit www.air.ky.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/OpenBurningFinal2010.pdf for a county-by-county listing of recycling centers.

ILLEGAL OPEN BURNING

Agriculture: Animal Bedding, Hay, and Muck Piles (horse manure/hay)

Construction: Asbestos Materials, Buildings, Construction & Demolition Debris, Renovation Debris, Drywall, & Shingles

Household Garbage: Animal or Vegetable Matter, Cans, Plastic, and Glass

Wood Materials: Fence Posts, Pallets, Sawdust, Wood Chips, Wood Mulch, Wood Shavings, and Painted, Stained, or Pressure-Treated Wood

Miscellaneous: Chemical Containers, Coated Wire, Insulation, Furniture, Carpeting, Rubber, Tires, Used Oil, Waste from Industries, Businesses, Schools, Churches, and Farms