

Manual for Distribution of Drowning Prevention Materials

Created by
Taylor Porter

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Objective

The objective of this project is to decrease the number of drowning in the Inland Empire and desert communities by increasing drowning awareness and prevention strategies within these communities. This is done by using local scout troops to organize and distribute educational information within their communities.

Overview

Over recent years, our communities have seen an increase in drowning and near drowning. This is due to multiple factors, including lack of proper barriers and lack of proper supervision.

Most drowning and near drowning have occurred at the residence of the victim, while the parents were close by. In addition, research has discovered that most of the residences lacked appropriate barriers to keep the children safe. Therefore, the goal of this project is to educate and remind pool owners of the need for proper barriers and proper supervision in order to prevent future drowning. Also, pool owners and families should be prepared to act in case of any emergency and be equipped with the knowledge of proper first aid and CPR.

This project was instigated by Taylor Porter, a scout from Troop 265 in Apple Valley. Taylor is available to answer questions and offer guidance in the replication of this project throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Coordinator's Responsibilities

It is the Coordinator's responsibility to organize and prepare the project. They should take the following steps to ensure a successful project.

1. Make contact with the City. Plan to present the plan at a City Council Meeting. Inform them of the project objective and gather information regarding special needs in the community. Give them the date for the project to be carried out.
2. Get a list of all of the pools in the city that you will be distributing flyers to. The list can be obtained by contacting Taylor Porter, Boy Scout Troop 265 at porterfam7@msn.com or cojhinmilah@msn.com or by contacting your county's Data System's Assessors Office.
3. Modify flyers with city statistics and any special information that the city council has recommended should be addressed.
4. Contact First 5 San Bernardino (909) 386-7706 or First 5 Riverside (951) 248-0014 for door hangers.
5. Arrange date for distribution of flyers and make contact with the scouts to set up training.
6. Arrange for **2 adult leaders** for 4 scouts.
7. Train participants using the guidelines on the following page.
8. Use a map of the city to create zones for distribution. Divide the city based on number of participants. Have one leader assigned to every 4 scouts or as recommended by BSA. Assign groups to zones.
9. Decide upon a meeting place and time, as well as a place and time to meet upon completion of distribution.
10. Plan for a debriefing after distribution.
11. Report back to the City Council.

Training

1. Explain the project to the scouts, giving them drowning statistics for the area, and the goal and objective of the project.
2. Handout scripts to be used when handing out flyers and practice/role-play the door-to-door contact.
3. Explain the use of flyers vs. door hangers. Flyers can be given to residents that the scout makes personal contact with. The door hangers should be used for homes where no one answers the door.
4. Explain safety measures
 - a. Do not enter occupants homes
 - b. Always go door to door with a buddy and in view of the adult leaders
 - c. Carry water at all times.
 - d. Immediately notify adult leader of any inappropriate comments/behavior by occupants.
 - e. Stick to zone.
5. Explain proper dress during project (wear scout uniform).
6. Hand out a phone list to each adult leader with a cell phone number for all adult leaders and the coordinator to use in the event of emergencies.
7. Divide scouts into zones and assign buddies and two adult leaders to each group.
8. Scouts will go door to door in sets of 2. One set can cover one side of the street and the other set will cover the other side. Leaders will be in view of scouts at all times.

9. Inform them of the meeting time and place for the beginning and end of project.

Participant/Scout Responsibilities

1. Be on time.
2. Dress in scout uniform
3. Bring water
4. Stay with your buddy and leader
5. Use the script
6. Hand out flyers to at-home occupants
7. Place door hanger on doors of homes with no answer.
8. Stay in zone

Adult Leader Responsibilities

1. Keep scouts together
2. Watch scouts at all times
3. Mark pool list with a C if contact was made and a DH if a door hanger was left.
4. Keep phone list and check in with Coordinator when about half done and when completed.
5. Have scouts to the end zone on time and call immediately if there will be any delay.

Resources and Contact Information

Door hangers: First 5 San Bernardino (909) 386-7706 or First 5 Riverside (951) 248-0014.

Project and flyer information, pool list: Taylor Porter, Boys Scout Troop 265, Project Coordinator for Hesperia. cojhinmilah@msn.com or porterfam7@msn.com

Education and approval of distribution of materials: Kelley Donaldson/Public Education Specialist. Kelley.donaldson@cityofrc.us

City maps: AAA in your community.

Drowning Prevention Handbook available at www.first5safety.com

CPR and swim lesson referrals in your area: www.first5safety.com or dial 2-1-1.

Door to Door Scripts

Use the following script when making contact with residents.

Hi. My name is [First Name] and I'm representing Scout Troop _____. I am distributing information to help reduce the risk of drowning in our area. Reports have estimated that each year about 300 children under 5 years old drown in swimming pools. We're asking that you take extra precautions this year to help decrease that number.

Thank you for your time.