

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ***National Drowning Prevention Month***

The month of May is the beginning of warmer weather which brings a larger number of people to the water. This brings an increase in drowning tragedies; therefore May is officially National Drowning Prevention Month. Drowning is a leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide, and the highest rates are among children. Unfortunately, Florida leads the nation in drowning deaths in children between the ages of one and four and Brevard County ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the state. It takes less than thirty seconds for a child to drown.

Simple water safety steps can save lives. You should stay close, always be alert and watch your children at all times. Seconds count so all parents, caregivers, and children should learn and practice survival swimming skills, CPR and have life-saving equipment such as life rings and jackets available for use. You should use barriers such as fencing, pool alarms, or covers. It is also important to avoid drain entrapments. Do not let your children play or swim near drains or suction outlets.

Bringing awareness to life saving drowning prevention methods is critical to reducing the number of drowning deaths in Brevard County. The Florida Department of Health – Brevard County Environmental Health Services has teamed up with the Florida Department of Health's Office of Injury Prevention in participating in the *WaterproofFL* Campaign to help educate families on drowning prevention. We have also partnered with Clear Channel Media and Entertainment to alert the public about awareness of life saving drowning prevention methods by purchasing air time to broadcast public service announcements and to display digital banner ads on [www.mykiss951.com](http://www.mykiss951.com). These messages are currently being broadcasted to Brevard County residents and thousands of tourists through June 2015. In addition we are currently showing an on-screen static image at Premier Oaks 10 in Melbourne prior to each movie in all theaters. These will be displayed until June 15, 2015.

On April 28, 2015 the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners approved a County Resolution that declared May as Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Month in Brevard County.

To obtain more information on drowning prevention and available swim lesson locations, please visit our website at [www.brevardeh.com](http://www.brevardeh.com) and click on 'Drowning Prevention'.

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**Florida Department of Health**

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