 ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
DROWNING PREVENTION FACT SHEET 2020

In the United States, drowning takes an average of 3,500-4,000 lives per year. This is an average of 10 fatal drownings per day. **("Drowning Quick Facts," National Drowning Prevention Alliance, 2020)**

Drowning kills nearly 1,000 children ages 0-5 every year and approximately 370 pre-teens/teens from 10-19. In 2017, there were approximately 8,700 hospital emergency room visits of children and teens due to drowning events. **("AAP Recommendations to Prevent Drowning in Children," American Academy of Pediatrics, March 2019)**

A child can drown in less than two inches of water. That means drownings can happen in a sink, toilet bowl, fountain, bucket, inflatable pools or small bodies of standing water around your home, such as ditches filled with rainwater. **(kidshealth.org, June 2020)**

Once underwater, an infant loses consciousness in 30 seconds or less, a child in two minutes. The brain can suffer irreparable damage in five minutes with brain death occurring in 10 minutes. **(wikipedia.org, June 2020)**

In 2019, there were 114 drowning incidents in Orange County. Of those incidents, 33 were children ages 0-4 and another 33 were adults over the age of 50. **(Orange County Drowning Statistics, Orange County Fire Authority, June 2020)**

In 2019, there were 38 drowning incidents at the beaches in Orange County, 30 within community pools and spas and 27 incidents in backyard pools and spas. **(Orange County Drowning Statistics, Orange County Fire Authority, June 2020)**

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children under the age of five and among the top five leading causes of death for those under the age of 18, both in California and Orange County. **(ochealthinfo.com, June 2020)**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission found that nearly 70% of children ages 0-4 that were found in their pool were not supposed to be in or near the pool. In fact, 46% of them were last seen in the house before being found in the pool. **("Pool Dangers and Drowning Prevention – When It's Not Swimming Time," healthychildren.org, American Academy of Pediatrics, March 2019)**