

# Friends and Clients Newsletter

## Swimming Pool Safety

Each year, about 260 children under 5 drown in swimming pools. In addition, the suction from drains in swimming pools and spas, under certain conditions, can entrap swimmers underwater. To help protect your family, be sure to take the following steps.

To prevent swimming pool drowning, layers of protection are essential. Place barriers completely around the pool, closely supervise young children, and be prepared in case of emergency.

In addition:

- If a child is missing, always look first in the pool. Seconds count!
- Knowing how to swim doesn't make a child safe from drowning
- Never use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Keep rescue equipment and a phone next to the pool.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Install physical barriers around the pool to limit access.
  - ⇒ Fences and walls should be at least 4-feet high and installed completely around the pool.
  - ⇒ Gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The latch should be out of reach of small children.
- If your house forms one side of the barrier for the pool,

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## Summertime Travel Tips

Summer is the most popular season for family vacations and travel. These times with our families should be relaxing and enjoyable. With easy access airports like Dallas Love Field and DFW International, a great vacation spot is just a cab ride away. But how many times we have worried about the appliances being left on or the newspapers piling in the yard, a veritable welcome mat for burglars and thieves? By taking the precautions below you can

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## Swimming Pool Safety

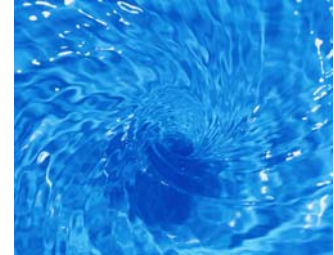
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doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that sound when the doors are unexpectedly opened. Or, use a power safety cover, a motor-powered barrier placed over the water area, to prevent access by young children.

- For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.

### Pool and Spa Entrapment Dangers

- Never use a pool or spa with a missing or broken drain cover. Be sure a newer, safer drain cover is in place. The new drain covers are usually domed-shaped – instead of the old flat drain covers.
- Consider installing a Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS), a device that will automatically shut off a pump if a blockage is detected.
- Have a professional regularly inspect your pool or spa for entrapment or entanglement hazards.
- Plainly mark the location of the electrical cut-off switch for the pool or spa pump.
- If someone is entrapped against a drain, cut off the pump immediately. Instead of trying to pull the person away from the powerful suction, pry a hand between the drain and the person's body to break the seal.



For more information, please visit CPSC's Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), or call the CPSC Hotline at (800) 638-2772.

## Rules for Operating your Boat

It is **unlawful** for any person to:

- Operate at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and prudent or greater than will permit him to bring such boat to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.
- Operate so as to cause a hazardous wake or wash.
- Operate in a circular course around fishermen or swimmers.
- Attach to any buoy, beacon, light marker, stake, flag or other aid to safe operation, or to move, remove, displace, tamper with, damage or destroy the same.
- Anchor in the traveled portion of any river or channel so as to prevent, impede, or interfere with safe passage of any other boat through the same area.
- Operate within an area designated as bathing, fishing, swimming, or otherwise restricted.
- Operate within designated "no wake" area except at headway speed without creating a swell or wake.
- Engage in water skiing, surfboarding or other similar activity between the hours of ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise; provided that this shall not apply to vessels used in recognized water ski tournaments, competitions, exhibitions or trials, provided that the water area is adequately lighted.
- Operate while intoxicated (**loss of mental or physical faculties, or blood alcohol content of .08 or higher**). First conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000,





## Summertime Travel Safety Tips

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leave your home in comfort and peace.

- Have someone gather your mail and keep it until your return (or you can have the post office hold it for you).
- Stop newspaper delivery.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn and water your plants.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Close curtains to prevent anyone from peering through the windows.
- Put your lights on an automatic timer or leave some commonly used lights on in the kitchen, bathroom or living room.
- Activate your security system if you have one.
- Do not leave a message on your answering machine that tells everyone that you are away.
- Unplug appliances and computers, because violent storms could create a power surge that could start an electrical fire.
- Give your itinerary to a trusted friend or relative, so that you can be contacted in case of emergency.
- Be sure that your homeowner's, life insurance and automobile insurance policies are paid up until your time of return.
- If you are leaving for an extended period, your banker can make arrangements for paying your bills during your absence.

Whether you choose to vacation far away or to take day trips with your family, safety is always an important factor. By taking the proper precautions, you can avoid undue hassle and enjoy peace of mind.

## Rules for Operating your Boat

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- Confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both; second conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$4,000, confinement not to exceed one year or both; third conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment for not more than 10 years or less than 2 years. **\*\*Failure to submit a specimen to determine blood alcohol content may result in suspension of your driver's license.**
- Operate any vessel or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane or similar device, in a willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property. (Violation of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both.)
- Swim or dive within two hundred yards of any sight-seeing or excursion boat except for maintenance purposes or unless within an enclosed area.
- Operate within 50 feet of a "Diver Down Flag" or operate a boat within 150 feet of a "Diver Down Flag" except at headway/steerage speed.



*Source: [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/safety/vessel\\_requirements/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/safety/vessel_requirements/)*

## How can our Firm help you?

Our firm has handled thousands of clients over the past 15 years in many different practice areas. We have two attorneys, each of which is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. *Steve Kuzmich is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law and Jonathan M. Bailey is Board Certified in Criminal Law.*

Therefore, our firm primarily handles personal injury and criminal law matters.

### **Personal Injury**

Catastrophic accidents  
Wrongful deaths  
Nursing home negligence  
Slip and Falls  
Job related injuries  
Construction accidents

### **Criminal**

Felonies  
Misdemeanors  
DWI  
White collar crimes  
Family disputes  
Juvenile matters

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions you may have, even if it is not an area we specialize in. Our firm will try to answer all your questions and if it is something outside our practice area, we will try to refer you to another attorney or firm, that we trust to handle your matter.

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