The Plano Fire Department wants to share with you some tragic statistics about children and water.

- A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.
- Each year, approximately 1,150 children ages 14 and under drown; more than half are preschoolers ages 0 to 4 years.
- More than 85 percent of drownings among children ages 1 to 4 years are pool related.
- Two-thirds of all drownings happen between May and August.

To download a copy of the Plano Fire Department's Residential Pool and Spa Safety Checklist, please visit www.planofire.org.

- Of all preschoolers who drown, 70 percent are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning and have been missing from sight for five minutes or less.
- Of all drownings and near drownings, 40 percent occur on Saturdays and Sundays.

What you can do to prevent becoming one of these tragic statistics.

- Watch your children in and around water. Assign a "Water Watcher," an adult who knows how to swim, to watch over children in the pool during parties or gatherings. Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards and emphasize the need for constant supervision. Make sure this person takes this responsibility seriously and does not leave his or her duty.
- Place a phone, a lifesaving ring and a shepherd's hook at pool side. It is important to post the address of the home near the pool as well in case a guest is responsible for calling 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- All family members 13 years and older should learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).
- Remember that no one is drown proof! Do not assume that your child is safe just because he or she has taken swimming lessons.
- Do not use floatation devices as a substitute for supervision.

- The home should be isolated from the pool with a fence at least 60" tall, with a self-closing, self-latching gate. The gate should open away from the pool and should never be propped open.
- Doors and windows should be alarmed to alert adults when opened. Doors should be self-closing and self-latching as well.
- Remove toys from in and around the pool when not in use.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count!

PLANO FIRE DEPARTMENT
1901 Avenue K
P.O. Box 860358
Plano Texas 75086-0358
972-941-7421