

Pass It On

As we begin the summer season, swimming pools have opened to the public and children are attending camps and participating in daily aquatic activities. Please consider the safety of the water activities in your evaluation of your club, camp, or neighborhood pool. This is important for not only young children but even for older children. Studies have shown that the number 2 cause of death for children age 1 to 14 is drowning. It is immensely important that all pool-side staff and lifeguards are well educated in aquatic injury prevention, remain continuously aware of the threat of drownings, and satisfy their weekly in-service training requirements.

In honor of our son John and to avoid needless drownings, we are sponsoring a free seminar lead by Frank Pia, an aquatics expert who has consulted with the American Red Cross and various other organizations on water safety. He is the originator of the Distress vs. Drowning person categorical classification, conducted the original research on the Instinctive Drowning Response, produced and directed the films On Drowning, Drowning: Facts & Myths, and The Reasons People Drown, and developed the RID Factor for analyzing the causes of swimming related drowning fatalities. His presentation will include pictures of actual near drownings and rescues.

We invite all those who are responsible for water safety to attend this free seminar which is scheduled for July 20, 2009. **Please pass this invitation along to anyone responsible for water safety this summer from summer camp directors, to club managers and lifeguards.**

We have also put together a website to provide information and to educate both parents and those persons that work for or run summer camps or pools about the need to have a safe environment for water activities. Please take the time to review the suggestions and safety information on the website and explore the information on the events and failures that lead to John's death. We hope you will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the water safety concerns that can exist. You can find the site at **www.ifpoolscouldtalk.com**.

Have a safe and happy summer.

The Pluchinskys