



# ABC'S OF WATER SAFETY

Prevent drowning.  
Never swim alone.



Children and adults drown without a sound. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children under the age of five and can happen in less than two inches of water.



Orange County  
Fire Authority  
714 573 6200  
[ocfa.org](http://ocfa.org)



## A is for Active Adult Supervision

- Keep infants and toddlers within an arm's reach when near water.
- Never swim alone, even adults.
- Never rely on water wings, rafts, or other swimming aids in place of U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (life jackets).
- If a child or adult is missing, every second counts. Check the water **FIRST!**

## B is for Barriers

- Install and maintain proper fencing around the pool and spa to isolate swimming areas from the home and play areas.
- Use multiple layers of protection, such as fences, gate/door alarms, and safety covers, to keep children away from pools and spas.
- Use self-closing, self-latching gates that open outward, away from the pool.
- Remove items such as chairs or tables that a child could use to climb over a fence.

## C is for Classes

- Learn to swim. Do not rely on swimming aids such as water wings, rafts, or noodles.
- Learn first aid and CPR. Always keep a phone nearby to call 9-1-1.
- Teach children that running, jumping, and pushing others on pool decks is dangerous and can cause injuries.

## Drain Safety

- Keep children away from pool/spa drains to avoid entrapment and entanglements.
- Keep long hair tied back and remove dangling items like jewelry and bathing suit ties.
- Install compliant safety drain covers and automatic shut-off pump systems (Safety Vacuum Release Systems).
- Identify and mark the location of the electrical cut-off switch for the pool or spa pump.
- Know where the pool/spa pump switch is and how to turn it off.