



Health & Safety Alert #36-8-06

Bathtub Drownings

The purpose of this Alert is to heighten the awareness of families and staff to the potential for bathtub drowning. The Mortality Review Committee has reviewed a number of bathtub drownings involving mostly children over the last several years. Many children with and without disabilities die each year in bathtub drowning. This Alert will provide some interesting facts and discuss how these can be prevented.

Did You Know?

- ❖ Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in 1-4 year olds.
- ❖ For every child that drowns, another 4 are hospitalized and 16 receive emergency care for near-drowning.
- ❖ A majority of bathtub drowning victims drown during a brief (less than 5 minutes) lapse in adult supervision.
- ❖ Children may drown in an inch or two of water.
- ❖ Non-fatal drowning can cause brain damage which results in long-term disabilities.
- ❖ For persons with seizure disorders, drowning is the most common cause of unintentional injury death.
- ❖ Bathtub drowning occurs because of a lack of adult supervision. Adult supervision means direct visual contact without other distracting activities.
- ❖ A person will lose consciousness 2 minutes after submersion with irreversible brain damage occurring in 4 to 6 minutes.

Prevention Equals Adult Supervision

- ❖ Never leave the child or adult unattended in the bathtub for any reason.
- ❖ Don't run to answer the phone.
- ❖ Don't check to see who is at the door.
- ❖ Don't leave siblings or unfamiliar caretakers to watch them.

- ❖ Don't rely on bathtub seats or rings. They create a false sense of security for the parent or caregiver.
- ❖ Get all of your supplies and clothing items before entering the bathroom.

For questions or comments regarding the above Alert, please contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.

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