

The Moreno Valley Fire Department Offers the Following Tips for Staying Safe in Pools and Spas:

The Moreno Valley Fire Department experiences several preventable near drowning and drowning incidents each year. These preventable events can cause severe injuries and may lead to death. Last year there were 30 near drownings and 15 drownings in Riverside County. The Moreno Valley Fire Department is asking for your help in preventing drowning with the following water safety tips.



Staying Close, Being Alert and Watching Children in and Around the Pool

- Always watch your children when they are in or near a pool or spa
- Teach children basic water safety tips
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes, and other openings to avoid entrapments
- Have a portable telephone close by at all time when you and your family are using a pool or spa
- If a child is missing, look for him or her in the pool or spa first
- Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors

Learning and Practicing Water Safety Skills

- Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults, and update those skills regularly
- Understand the basics of life-saving so that you can assist in a pool emergency

Having the Appropriate Equipment for Your Pool or Spa

- Install a four-foot fence around the pool and spa and use self-closing and self-latching gates; ask your neighbors to do the same at their pools
- Install and use a lockable safety cover on your spa
- If your house serves a fourth side of a fence around a pool, install door alarms and always use them
- For additional protection, install windows guards on windows facing pools or spas
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers, and ask your pool service provider if you do not know
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order
- Consider using a surface wave or underwater alarm

For more information please visit <http://www.poolsafely.gov/pool-spa-safety/staying-safe-pools-spas/residential-swimming-pools/>

The Moreno Valley Fire Department would like to offer important flood preparedness information.

The Office of Emergency Management would like to remind everyone floods are one of the most common hazards in Riverside County. They can cause injury, death property damage and even contaminate drinking water and cause electrical disruptions which can severely impact the City of Moreno Valley. All floods are not alike and can develop slowly over time but can also progress very quickly in just a few minutes. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of rapidly moving water that carries rocks, mud, debris and can sweep away anything in its path. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in low lying areas, near water or even near flood prone areas or intersections. Do not attempt to cross an area or intersection that appears to be flooded but rather find an alternate route of travel.



Before the Flood Warning or Watch

Be prepared to respond to flooding by taking the following actions before rains and flooding begin:

- Assemble emergency supply kits for your home, workplace, and vehicle.
- Store a seven-day supply of food and water (at least one gallon per person, per day) in closed, clean containers.
- Gather filled sandbags.
- Be sure to have plastic sheeting on hand.
- Teach children not to play in or near rivers, streams, or other areas of potential flooding.
- Identify safe routes from your home or work place to high, safe ground. Determine whether you can use these routes during flooding or storms. Be familiar with your geographic surroundings.

During the Flood

- Avoid unnecessary trips.
- Do not drive or walk through moving water. You can be knocked off your feet in as little as 6 inches of water.
- Do not “sightsee” or enter restricted areas.
- Stay away from streams, rivers, flood control channels and other areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Move to higher ground if you’re caught by rising waters.
- Use the phone only to report dangerous conditions or emergencies that are life threatening.

What are Flash Floods?



Flash floods are short-term events, occurring within 2 hours of the start of high intensity rainfall. A flash flood is a rapid stream rise. Flash flood damage and most fatalities tend to occur in areas immediately near a stream, creek, river or flood prone areas and intersections. In addition, heavy rain falling on steep terrain can weaken soil and cause mud slides, damaging homes, roads and property. Flash floods occur when slow moving or multiple thunderstorms happen over the same area. When storms move faster, flash flooding is less likely since the rain is distributed over a larger area.

When a flash flood **WATCH** is issued

- Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a flash flood **WARNING** is issued

- A flash flood warning is issued when the threat of a flash flood is imminent or occurring.
- Be ready to evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
- Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harm's way.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

