

WSRCC Newsletter

July 2008



“Justice is itself the great standing policy of civil society; and any eminent departure from it, under any circumstances, lies under suspicion of being no policy at all.”

-Edmund Burke



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Fourth of July firework Dangers



works confiscated and be issued a citation.

Because of the lack of rain the city of El Paso is experiencing extremely dry conditions. Due to the dangers of starting brush fires, the City of El Paso urges that the public does not purchase or use fireworks this Fourth of July.

More emergencies and injuries occur during this holiday than any other throughout the year, according to the El Paso Fire Department. Children are

By Alex Hinojosa

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As temperatures rise into the triple digits, the City of El Paso would like to remind the public the dangers of fireworks. It is illegal to use fireworks within the city limits of El Paso, this includes being within 5,000 feet beyond city limits. Those who are caught with fireworks within the city limits will have their fire-

especially susceptible to harming themselves and often burn their hands and face with sparklers. Because of the high temperatures and dry weather that the city is experiencing the city urges that the citizens of El Paso attend one of the many professional fireworks displays that will take place throughout the city.

Remember it is against the law to use fireworks in the City of El Paso. Check the newspaper for a list of fireworks display throughout the city.

Firework displays throughout the City

- ◆ **4th of July Celebration:** 7:30 p.m., Friday July 4th. The El Paso Symphony Orchestra and the Museum and Cultural Affairs Department of the City of El Paso present an evening of celebratory music and fireworks at the Chamizal National Memorial amphitheatre.
- ◆ **Fireworks Extravaganza:** 6:30 p.m., Friday July 4th. The El Paso Diablos invite the public to celebrate our nation's independence with a spectacular fireworks display after the game. Cohen Stadium in Northeast El Paso. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for general admission, \$6 reserved and \$7 box seats. For more information contact 755-2000 or visit the Web site www.diablos.com.



Pool Safety should be taken Seriously

By Ofc. Curtis Whitener



In this heat a residential pool is a wonderful thing. Laughter, play, splashing and children's loud voices are commonplace around the pool. However, an unsecured pool, diverted adult attention and mobile young toddlers can be the recipe for heart-wrenching disaster-a catastrophe that can haunt parents for a lifetime.

Swimming pools, residential or not, can in many cases, be every bit as dangerous as a loaded firearm in the home. Parents should never let their guard down. All it takes is a silent moment and

more than one life will be changed. Pool submersion involving children happen quickly. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer the telephone.

75 percent of victims had been missing for 5 minutes or less. A child's drowning is a very silent death. There is no splashing or cries for help that can indicate the child is in serious trouble.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), approximately 300 Children under 5-years-old drown in swimming pools, usually ones owned by their family.

In addition, more than 2000 children between the ages of one and four years of age were treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries. Alarming statistics were published by the CPSC involving both drowning and submersion incidents for children under 5 years:

- 75 percent of the submersion victims studied by the CPSC were between 1-3 years old.
- 65 percent were boys.
- 46 percent of the victims were last seen in the house.
- 23 percent were last seen in the yard.
- 31 percent were around the pool.
- 69 percent of the children were not expected to be at the pool.
- 65 percent of the incidents happed in a pool owned by the child's family.
- 33 percent of the incidents hap pened in a pool owned by friends/relatives.

Although the pool is a way to cool off from the summer heat, remember to keep a watchful eye on your child.

Drowning prevention tips for pool Owners

- Never assume that a drowning incident couldn't happen to you or your family.
- Don't have a confident sense of security just because you assume your pool area and home are fully secure.
- Whether inside or outside of your house, always watch your children.
- Never leave a child unsupervised in the water or pool area for any reason.
- Don't let doorbells, phone calls, chores or conversations ever become a distraction. If you must leave the pool area, take the child with you, and make sure the pool gate latches are secure when it closes.
- Again always keep your eyes on the child or children. Choose a child watcher, whether it's you or someone else, when you attend a party or have friends or family over.
- Talk with baby-sitters about pool safety, drowning prevention and supervision.
- Post rules such as "No pushing," "No running," "No dunking" and "Never swim alone." Enforce these rules.

Pool Safety continued on Page 4



CERT prepares citizens for the Unknown

By Ofc. Jose Milian

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What if a major natural disaster such as a tornado were to hit your part of town this instant? Is your neighborhood ready for something like this? A major accident that might tie up traffic for hours. Or a disaster caused by Mother Nature, flood, earthquake, or tornado.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for those services for at least 72 hours. Factors such as the number of victims, communication failure and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moments notice. In the end people will have to relay on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. In preparation of times of crisis the Los

Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) in 1905, recognized that citizens would very likely be on their own during the early stages of a catastrophic disaster. LAFD decided that some basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills would improve the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance could arrive.

The training program that the LAFD initiated furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disasters. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The CERT course benefits any citizen who takes the course. The citizen will be better prepared

to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders.

These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster.

If you are interested in becoming a CERT team Member for your neighborhood or business contact Mrs. Natalie Nevarez- Straight (Regional Services Planner) for the Rio Grande Council of Governments at (915) 533-0998.

Think about it, are you ready for the challenge whether is here at home or weather is some where else.





WSRCC Wanted Subjects

If you have any information on the subjects listed below, please contact the El Paso Police Department.



Name: Alberto Reyes
D.O.B: 12-08-1979
Charges: Evading Arrest



Name: Alejandro Lopez
D.O.B: 11-27-1976
Charges: Sexual Assault



Name: Jeannette Sanchez
D.O.B: 07-25-1986
Charges: Possession of Marijuana

Pool Safety from Page 2

More prevention tips for pool Owners

- Don't rely on swimming lessons or "floaties" to protect your children in the water.
- Attend a CPR class. Make sure your baby-sitter knows CPR.
- Encourage your neighbors to follow pool safety guidelines including keeping their back gates and doors locked, and their pool gates securely closed and latched.
- Consider door alarms for the doors that open into the back yard.
- Do not consider young children to be "drown proof" because they have had swimming lessons. Children must be watched closely while swimming.

The weakest link in the strongest and highest fence is a gate that fails to close and latch completely every time. Make sure this important security barrier is always in good working condition. There is a wide variety of fencing styles and materials. A local fence company can provide information and assist in making the best selection.



WSRCC



**4801 Osbourne Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79922
(915) 585-6100**

- Patrol Desk: 585-6100
- Investigations: 585-6150
- Traffic: 585-6041
- TAC: 585-6079
- J.I.S: 585-6068
- Victim Services: 585-6125
- Community Services/ Crime Prevention: 585-6145

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* Images courtesy of Google.



Neighborhood Crime Watch

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History

The neighborhood watch program began in the 1970's to combat and reduce residential crime. The basis of the program was for citizens around the neighborhood to prevent and discourage any crime and reduce the fear of living in the said neighborhood where increases in crime were occurring. Today there are over 600 programs that have expanded to schools, apartments, businesses and parks.

Benefits and Costs

- Prevents crime
- Reduce fear
- Builds pride
- Improves citizen-police relations
- Addresses other issues and concerns such as child safety, youth development, senior citizen welfare and quality-of-life.
- On going education from the police.
- Costs include investment of time and street signs (usually two per block) which cost \$22 each.

Recognition

The Westside Regional Command Center held a Neighborhood watch campaign at the Home Depot at 7545 N. Mesa. Block captains were asked to volunteer their time to help increase the number of programs in the West side. As the crime Prevention Specialist here at the WSRCC, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to three individuals that helped out and stayed the duration of the presentation: Ms. Tina Ganes (NWA President), Ms. Marie Champagne (Block Captain) and

Mrs. Arleen Nelson (NW Member). It's individuals like you that help the El Paso Police Department take a bite out of crime.

For others who would like to get their neighborhood involved in the program visit your block neighbors and call any of the phone numbers listed below for assistance. You will need to have active support from half of your block, designate a Block Capitan and Co-captain to serve as block coordinators and liaisons with the police for information and educational literature.

The El Paso Police Department would like to remind those interested that you are not being asked to take personal risks, but rather to serve as extra "eyes and ears" and report any suspicious activity.

For more information on the program or to start one up call any one of the Crime Prevention Offices in your area below:

North East Regional
759-2004

West side
585-6109 or 585-6124

Central
838-8013

Pebble Hills
599-5898

Mission Valley
872-3703