



*For Release: July 12, 2010*  
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## **Fire Chief advocates community call to action to prevent drownings**

Water Safety Press Conference

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

9:00 a.m.

[Mesa Fire Station 201-Community Room](#)

[360 E. 1st Street \(Mesa Dr./1st Street\)](#)

[Mesa, AZ 85201](#)

Mesa Fire Chief, Harry Beck, will be hosting a press conference imploring all citizens to watch their children around all bodies of water to prevent drowning. “To date, we have had 11 drowning incidents in Mesa. Nine of those have involved children. When we look at the reoccurring thread through them all, it has been a lapse in supervision”, Mesa Fire Chief Harry Beck said. “I am asking that all residents of Mesa and the state of Arizona take personal responsibility to learn the steps to prevent drownings.”

“Mesa Fire Department will be rolling out our “I Can Prevent Drowning” Campaign at the press conference. It emphasizes personal responsibility and the importance of utilizing layers of protection as the best way to prevent a drowning”, Water Safety Coordinator Michele Long said. Layers of protection include: Adult supervision at all times, even when you don’t think children are around water; Barriers such as pool fences should be properly working and should not be propped open; and Classes, CPR classes for all caregivers and age appropriate swim lessons. The key to keeping families safe is having all layers in place and making sure all guests in the home are educated.

“We continue to see incidents where a drowning happens during a group gathering”, Water Safety Coordinator Michele Long said. “Designate a water watcher so that everyone is aware of the adult that is in charge of supervising children and a lapse in supervision does not occur.

For more information on the I Can Prevent Drowning Campaign visit:

<http://www.mesaaz.gov/fire/FLSE/ICanPreventDrowning.aspx>