

PROTECTING CHILDREN EMPOWERING GUARDIANS

Unfortunately over the past ten years in Canada there have been numerous deaths related to day camp or day care use of public and private pools and waterfronts. Several inquests have highlighted the need for a training program for counsellors so they understand how to prepare for visits to aquatic settings and what to look for in a drowning victim.

Safeguard

Here five things you need to know about Safeguard:

- 1) Safeguard provides safety supervision training for guardians like day camp counsellors, counsellors-in-training and others who accompany groups of young people to pools or waterfronts.
- 2) The course stresses the responsibility undertaken by these group leaders for safeguarding the young people in their care even when under lifeguard supervision.
- 3) Safeguard training focuses on water safety awareness, accident prevention and the principles of aquatic safety supervision.

4) Safeguard teaches participants how to identify hazards and at-risk behaviors, how to recognize potential victims, and how to respond safely in an aquatic emergency.

5) There are no pre-requisites for this program. Safeguard training is designed for swimmers and non-swimmers alike. Ideally, guardians are at least 12 years of age, able to swim, and have some lifesaving experience. Lifesaving Instructors who have their National Lifeguard can teach and certify candidates in this program.

