



Harris County Hospital District

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MEDIA ADVISORY

HCHD Hosts Water, Pool Safety Event at Apartment Complex

Houston-area drownings involving children far outpacing last year's totals

HOUSTON (July 28, 2006) – In the wake of higher than usual drownings by children, the Harris County Hospital District will host a water and pool safety exhibition 3 – 5 p.m. Monday, July 31, for children and parents at the Southwest Village Apartments, 11726 Belfort St.

The complex has a large number of children under age 12 and experienced a child's drowning death this summer in its pool. This year's number of drownings in greater Houston has already exceeded last year's total of 23.

“The number of children dying unnecessarily is tragic,” said Dr. Bradford Scott, trauma medical director for Ben Taub General Hospital. “With a little education about water safety and the dangers of pools and water at home, we hope to keep these children safe.”

Staff from the district's Ben Taub General Hospital Trauma Service Outreach will inform families how to avoid dangerous situations at the pool and water safety for toddlers at home. Additionally, children and parents will receive tips on CPR.

According to the Worldwide Safe Kids Web site, 69 percent of drownings occurred while one or both parents watched over their children. About 39 percent of those watching over their children also were busy doing chores, 18 percent were socializing and 9 percent were on the telephone.

WHAT: Water and Pool Safety Exhibition

WHEN: 3-5 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2006

WHERE: Southwest Village Apartments, 11726 Belfort St.

PARKING: Media parking is available in complex's main office area, adjacent to the swimming pool

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