

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** July 2, 2009

**TIME:** 4:45 p.m.

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**Lee County Public Safety Urges Drowning Prevention This Holiday Weekend**

Fort Myers, Fla.- This holiday weekend children and adults are at an extremely high risk for preventable drowning and Lee County's Public Safety Division is urging consistent use of all possible layers of protection.

National statistics by the Centers for Disease Control show the drowning rate spikes during the Independence Day holiday weekend. Children under 5 are in the highest risk category, also shown by Florida Department of Health data.

"The public seems to be spending more leisure and entertainment time at home due to the ailing economy," said Diane Holm, Public Information Officer, "so it's more important than ever to prevent unauthorized access to family pools and spas, to put non-swimmers in life jackets and to designate an adult water watcher during planned activities near water this weekend."

The public can get more tips on prevention through the National Drowning Prevention Alliance's recently published position paper on drowning prevention available on their website at [www.ndpa.org](http://www.ndpa.org) . Drowning prevention tips are also located on the Injury Prevention Coalition website [www.leecountyinjuryprevention.org](http://www.leecountyinjuryprevention.org) .