

Map Your Water Hazards

Drowning is the biggest danger when a child wanders, and it usually happens close to where they went missing. Walk your neighborhood this week and list every water hazard within about a mile of home. Fifteen minutes now beats searching blind later.

1 Your water hazard list

LOCATION	TYPE	WALKING TIME	FENCED?	WHO OWNS IT / CONTACT
Neighbor's backyard pool	☒ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other	2 min	☐ Y ☒ N	The Wilsons, house to the left
	☐ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other		☐ Y ☐ N	
	☐ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other		☐ Y ☐ N	
	☐ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other		☐ Y ☐ N	
	☐ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other		☐ Y ☐ N	
	☐ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other		☐ Y ☐ N	
	☐ pool ☐ pond ☐ fountain ☐ ditch ☐ basin ☐ other		☐ Y ☐ N	

2 The three closest hazards, memorize these

1

2

3

Don't forget these

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Backyard pools, yours and your neighbors' | ☐ Retention basins behind schools and subdivisions |
| ☐ Creeks and drainage ditches, especially after rain | ☐ Decorative fountains at parks and plazas |
| ☐ Hot tubs left uncovered | ☐ Hotel, cottage or apartment pools you visit |

3 Now put the list to work

- 1 Share this sheet with your child's school, sitters, and the neighbors who know your child.
- 2 Ask owners of unfenced water whether a gate or alarm is possible. Offer to split the cost of a latch.
- 3 If your child is missing, call 911 and check the nearest water at the same time. Searchers then check water in the order of this list, closest first. Alone? Call on speaker as you go.