

Safe Kids Worldwide (www.safekids.org/) is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C., with coalitions around the country that work to protect kids from the No. 1 killer of children, which is accidental injuries.

Drowning is one of the primary causes of accidental deaths. Alan Korn, director of public policy for Safe Kids Worldwide, offered tips to parents to keep kids safe from pool drain accidents on *The Early Show* Friday.

He says experts call the summer months "trauma season," because there is a spike in injuries and deaths because kids are out playing more often and it's mostly unsupervised play.

He told CBS News, "We want kids out enjoying the summer, being active and moving and playing, but there are some things parents and community pool owners can do right now to protect themselves from traditional forms of drowning and then this form of entrapment (in a pool), which ... has happened all too often."

Starting in December of this year, every public pool in this country has to have two layers of protection to prevent entrapment in the drains of pools. They have to have an anti- entrapment drain cover. The law requires that any drain produced or manufactured in this country has to get the anti-entrapment drain cover. Public pool owners and operators also need to actively change the bad drain cover to the good drain cover. They don't have to wait for the law, they should get it done as soon as possible.

They also have to have a second layer of protection, which is a device called a "Safety Vacuum Release System" (SVRS) that detects if there is any unnatural suction or blockage at the drain and automatically shuts it off.

Korn said this happens several times a year. "An adult died two or three weeks ago, who was down at the bottom of the pool trying to maintain it," said Korn. "He had a scuba tank on."

He said that public pools include summer camps, hotel/motels, country clubs, apartment complexes and community pools.

With respect to private pools, Korn said the same safety devices apply, but are not required by law. He said there are millions and millions of pools that are poorly maintained and don't have the safety devices. So, he recommends that private pool owners follow the guidelines that apply to public pools. They should talk to their pool service companies and ask if they have an anti-entrapment device in their pool and how they can get one if they don't.

Here is **some advice that he has for parents:**

--Find out if the pool they are using has these new safety devices.

--Cut your kid's hair a little shorter, including girls. This is one way to start lowering the risk.

--Tell your kids to stay away from the drain. They are not toys. Tell your children to stay away from the bottom of the pool. Depending on the size of the pool there may be more than one drain.

--This tip is relates to general forms of drowning. Know where your kids are in the pool at all times, so you can react. "At least there can be an attempt to help the child," he said. "This means active supervision. It's not occasionally looking over your shoulder when you're barbecuing." He recommends that some adult actively supervise for 15 minutes and then switch with another adult."