



Member Agencies

Alta Irrigation District

Children's Hospital,
Central California

City of Clovis Fire
Department

Consolidated Irrigation
District

Fresno County
Department of
Community Health,
CHDP Program

Fresno County Sheriff's
Office

Fresno Irrigation District

Fresno Metropolitan
Flood Control District

James Irrigation District

Kings River Conservation
District

Mark Simonian, M.D.

Tranquillity Irrigation
District

U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers

U.S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary

The Water Safety
Council of Fresno
County was established
in 1982 to assess
water safety problems
and suggest possible
solutions.

For more information on
the Water Safety Council
of Fresno County, and
for links to member
agencies' web sites, visit
www.watersafe.org.

History

In 1982, to address community water safety concerns the Fresno City Council and Fresno County Board of Supervisors formed an independent task force to accomplish the mission of developing, improving and assessing water safety programs designed to reduce drowning and water-related injuries. The task force was incorporated in 1993 as the Water Safety Council of Fresno County.

Membership

Over the years membership has grown to include the entities listed to the left. Members contribute to the Council's annual budget of approximately \$10,000. Over the years funds have been spent on the development, production, and distribution of educational and outreach materials mainly targeted at children.

All presentations and contacts with schools, agencies and community groups are made by representatives from the members listed.

Priorities

Close adult supervision of children around water is the consistent theme throughout all educational materials and interactions with the public. There are five bodies of water the Council focuses on in its education and outreach efforts:

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Canals
- Ponding Basins
- Swimming Pools

Council Activities

- Distribution of the Kids 'N Water Safety curriculum kits and teacher in-servicing
- Presentations for school groups, civic organizations, local agencies, local governing bodies
- Application for grant funds to sponsor outreach activities
- Presence at community events

- Promotion of swimming lessons
- Development and maintenance of a water safety website (www.watersafe.org)
- Direct public education at five local water recreation areas
- Appearances on local television and radio stations (including a feature spot on KVPT in Fall of 2004)
- Support for May as “Water Safety Month” in Fresno County

New Partnerships

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY - In April 2004 the Council received a \$300,000 education grant from First 5 Fresno County. The project involves parent/guardian education about the vital importance of close adult supervision of children while they are in and around water. Free training sessions are offered by nurses from Children’s Hospital Central California to groups throughout Fresno County. The project is entering its second season and has to date been successful in meeting its goals. The grant also pays the salary of a part-time program coordinator. Grant activities will continue through June 2006.

CITY OF FRESNO PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, AQUATICS PROGRAM

- A partnership was recently formed with the City of Fresno Parks, Recreation & Community Services Aquatics Program to provide swimming lessons scholarships. Scholarships were offered at sites where children may not otherwise be able to take swimming lessons for economic reasons. Sites chosen by City staff were: Frank H. Ball Community Center, Hoover High School, Ivy Community Center, Mosqueda Community Center, and Romain Neighborhood Park.

Two hundred swimming lesson scholarships were offered at the five sites during late July and early August. The Council and Children’s Hospital each donated \$1,000. Aquatics lowered the price for swimming lessons from \$20 per child to \$10 in order to make more lessons available to children who wanted to learn how to swim. All 200 scholarships were used this year.

Join Us In This Important Work

Building on the past successes of the Council is important in ensuring its future and its ability to effectively broadcast messages of water safety to keep our community’s children safe. New members are invited to be part of the Council’s mission and existing members strive to develop innovative ways to reach the public and maximize financial resources.