



Member Agencies

Children's Hospital
Central California

Fresno County
Department of Public
Health, CHDP Program

Fresno Irrigation District

Fresno Metropolitan
Flood Control District

James Irrigation District

Kings River Conservation
District

Mark Simonian, M.D.

SwimAmerica

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 at the Water Safety Council (WSC) of Fresno County.

Membership

Over the years membership has grown to include the entities listed to the left. Members contribute to WSC's annual budget of approximately \$10,000. Members also contribute time, energy and talent. Over the years educational and outreach materials have been developed and distributed to children and for their parents and caregivers.

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

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/Spas

WSC Activities

- Swimming lessons scholarship partnership with City of Fresno PARCS since 2005. At the close of the 2011 swim season, approximately 1,400 children have received Red Cross-certified swim instruction at no charge since 2005.
- Presentations for school groups, civic organizations, day care centers, local agencies and governing bodies;
- Distribution of the Kids 'N Water Safety curriculum kits and teacher in-servicing;
- Participation in and sponsorship of Children's Hospital Central California's annual May Day safety education event for third-graders held at Chukchansi Park.
- Pursuit of grant funds to sponsor outreach activities;
- Presence at community events;
- Water safety web site (www.watersafe.org);
- Appearances on local television and radio stations;
- Support for May as "Water Safety Month" in Fresno County;

Partnerships

WSC is itself a partnership of several local agencies and health care professionals. All work together to achieve the same goal - keeping children safe around all bodies of water. Other important partnerships include those with:

CITY OF FRESNO PARKS, AFTER SCHOOL, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES (PARCS) - A partnership was formed in 2005 with the PARCS Aquatics program to provide swimming lesson scholarships. Scholarships are offered at public pools with high use of recreation swimming, but low participation in swimming instruction. Children who are awarded swimming lesson scholarships may not otherwise receive formal swimming instruction. Donations to increase the number of scholarships offered are welcome. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please call Brandy Swisher at the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, (559) 456-3292.

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY - In 2004, WSC received a \$300,000 education grant from First 5 Fresno County. The project was to educate parents/guardians about the vital importance of close adult supervision of children while they are in and around water. Free training sessions were offered by nurses from Children's Hospital Central California and WSC to groups throughout Fresno County. While the grant project has been completed, the video and training materials developed are being distributed and presented. The video is available in English, Spanish and Hmong.

Join Us In This Important Work

Building on the past successes of WSC 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 WSC's mission and existing members strive to develop innovative ways to reach the public and maximize financial resources. Visit www.watersafe.org for more information, or e-mail info@watersafe.org with questions.