



**For Immediate Release: May 2, 2019**

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**PRESS RELEASE: GREENVILLE FIRE-RESCUE WANTS EVERYONE TO  
“SWIM SMART”**

**GREENVILLE:** Greenville Fire-Rescue (GFR) has once again joined up with Wesley United Methodist Church (WUMC) to present a three-week water safety series on drowning prevention as part of May's Water Safety Month.

According to the LV Project, toddlers ages 1-4 and teens ages 13-17 are at higher risk for drowning; toddlers in swimming pools and teens in open water. The LV project was started after a Texas family lost their teenage son, Connor, to a fatal drowning at a lake. Connor, who was a great swimmer, was not wearing a life jacket. The premise of the LV project is that being water safe is a lifelong practice. Even if a child has learned how to swim, they are still at risk of drowning. Practicing water safety should be done at all ages and from inside the house (think toddlers and mop buckets) to areas outside the house (open water).

As of May 2, 2019, The Help for Parents/Hope for Kids Website notes that 14 children have already drowned in Texas so far, with one of those being in Hunt County.

Because Texas leads the country in youth drownings for ages 14 and under each year, Greenville Fire-Rescue created this family friendly water safety series to educate families together on various ways to be safe in and around water. Most importantly, GFR wants to dispel the myth that residents will know if someone is drowning. Contrary to what most people believe, drowning is a quick and silent killer. In the time it takes to get a towel (10 seconds), a child can become submerged. Most drownings of young children occur in family pools. (Texas Drowning Prevention Alliance). Greenville Fire-Rescue wants to get the message across that drowning can be prevented.

GFR and its partners: Greenville Parks & Recreation, Hunt County EMS-AMR, and the Texas Game Wardens, will speak on educational topics related to water safety on Thursdays, starting May 9th from 6-7:30pm covering a different topic each week.

The weekly line-up includes:

**May 9:** Pool Emergencies - Common pool emergencies and teaching of Hands-Only CPR -

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presented by Hunt County EMS-AMR. Pool drownings can even occur hours to days after someone has been swimming. Hunt County EMS will be on hand to talk about symptoms to watch for when your child has been in the pool. They will also teach a Hands-Only CPR session. Hands-Only CPR has already proven to save lives in emergencies.

**May 16:** Public and Home Pool Safety – Safety at pools WITH lifeguards - presented by Greenville Parks & Recreation. Many drownings or near drownings occur in places with lifeguards. Any time a person is submerged the potential to be impacted for life is present – and the longer they are submerged, the greater the impact to the person’s ability to function. This focuses on how parents and caregivers can keep their loved ones safe at waterparks, public pools, etc. Swimming when there are NO lifeguards (i.e. homes, apartments) - presented by Greenville Fire Department. Every year, the news reports instances of someone drowning in a pool where no lifeguards are present. This topic covers tips for having a designated water watcher anytime someone is in the pool as well as what steps to follow should an emergency happen.

**May 23:** Boating and Lake Safety – Boating, life jackets, personal watercraft safety - presented by a Texas Game Warden. The final topic will lead into the Memorial Day weekend. A time traditionally spent as the first big boating event of the summer. A local Texas Game Warden will be on-hand to talk about boater safety, lake safety, in particular - proper fit of lifejackets.

In addition to the speakers, a light meal will be provided each session by WUMC’s First Responder Mission Team, Hunt County AMR-EMS, and the Greenville Firefighter’s Association Local 997, as well as door prizes to be given away each week.

Door prizes include gift cards, a “water safety” basket from WUMC, and gift packages to Shenaniganz.

The Fletcher Warren Civic Center is located at 5501 Business Hwy 69 S.

Any business that would like to be a sponsor may contact Sylvia R. Peace at 903-457-2940 or via email at srodriguez@ci.greenville.tx.us

Registration for the event is requested for food purposes as well as a request to fill out a brief survey on pool use. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPWNQVT> or the Fire Department Facebook page: GreenvilleFire-Rescue. You may also register by calling 903-457-2940.