

WATER SAFETY

Challenge: Swimming pools grow increasingly irresistible as the thermometer rises. But lapses in water safety can lead to tragedy.

Solution: Look up the Know Before You Go program at www.knowbeforeyougo.org, designed by Children's Medical Center Dallas, the YMCA of Dallas, American Red Cross-Dallas Chapter and the Safe Kids Dallas Area Coalition. Some of the program's highlights:

- Pool owners should install door and window alarms, a non-climbable 5-foot fence and self-closing gates that open outward with latches the child cannot reach.
- Assign an adult "water watcher" when children are in the pool area. The water watcher's full attention should be on the pool. He or she should not talk on the phone, read, prepare food or socialize.
- Have a phone near the water to call 911.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first.

SHARON KILDAY/Staff Artist