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Water  
Awareness in  
Residential  
Neighborhoods



# By the end of this presentation, you will be able to...

- **Identify water safety hazards in your neighborhood**
  - **Swimming pools**
  - **Retention ponds**
  - **At home**
- **Identify prevention tips for water safety**
- **Educate your community on water safety and awareness**



Drowning can happen  
**QUICKLY** and **QUIETLY**

Can you spot the drowning child?



# Did You Know?

**Drowning claims the lives of more than 3,572 people every year.**

**945 of them are children**



# Facts

Drowning is a **LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL INJURY RELATED DEATH** in children 14 years of age and younger

Nearly half of drowning deaths are **INFANTS AND TODDLERS**

Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a **BATHTUB**

Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in **HOME SWIMMING POOLS**

The likelihood of drowning in open water sites (such as retention ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans) **INCREASES WITH AGE**



# Drowning & Near Drowning

For every child that drowns, **5 MORE** are treated in the Emergency Department.

## **DROWNING:**

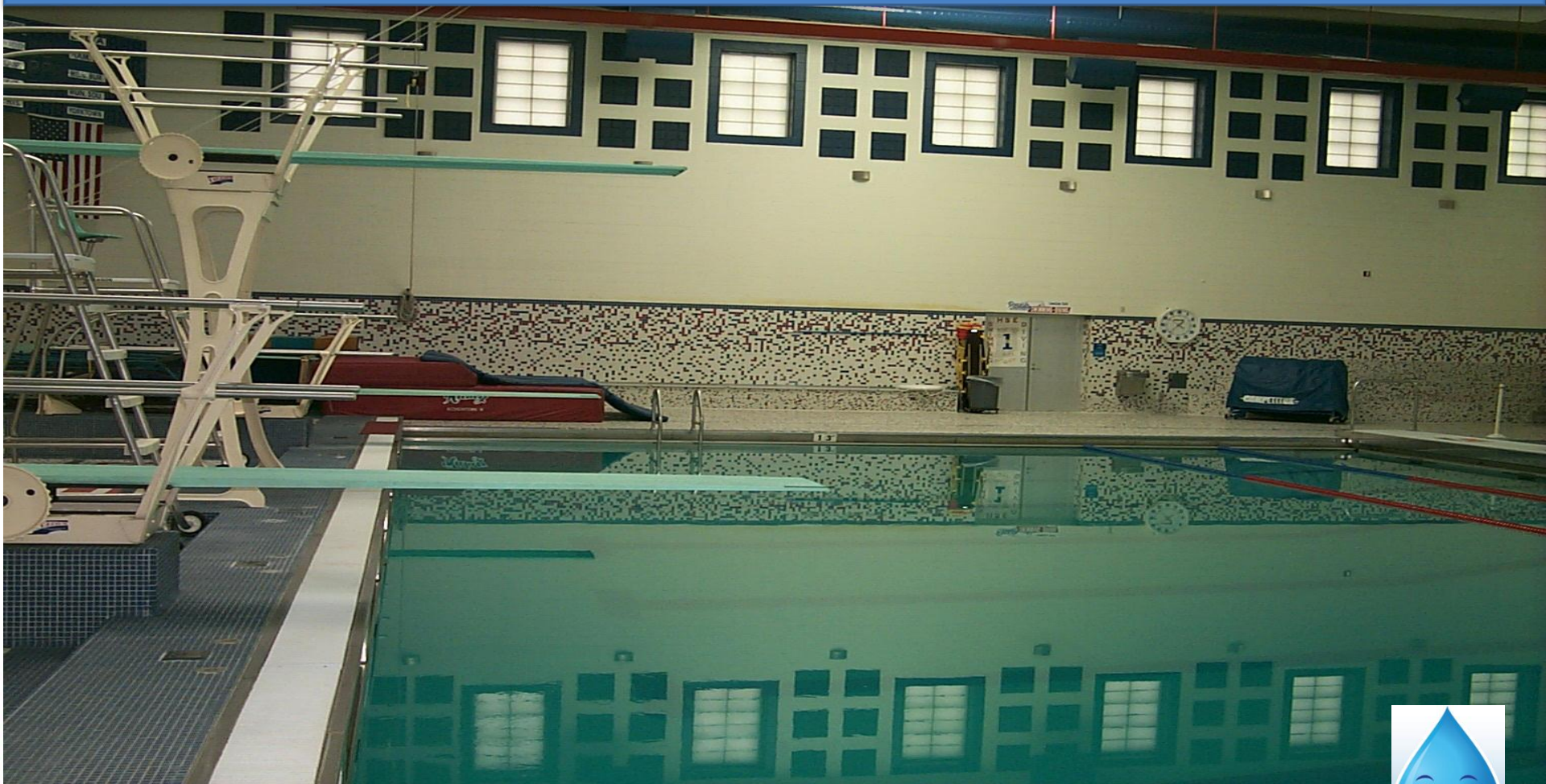
Death from suffocation by submersion in water.

## **NEAR DROWNING:**

Survival, at least temporarily, after submersion in water.



# Pool Hazards



# Pool Hazards



- Shallow water diving
- No lifeguard on duty
- Hazardous materials
- No adult supervision
- Wet decks and ground
- Pool covers
- No fencing

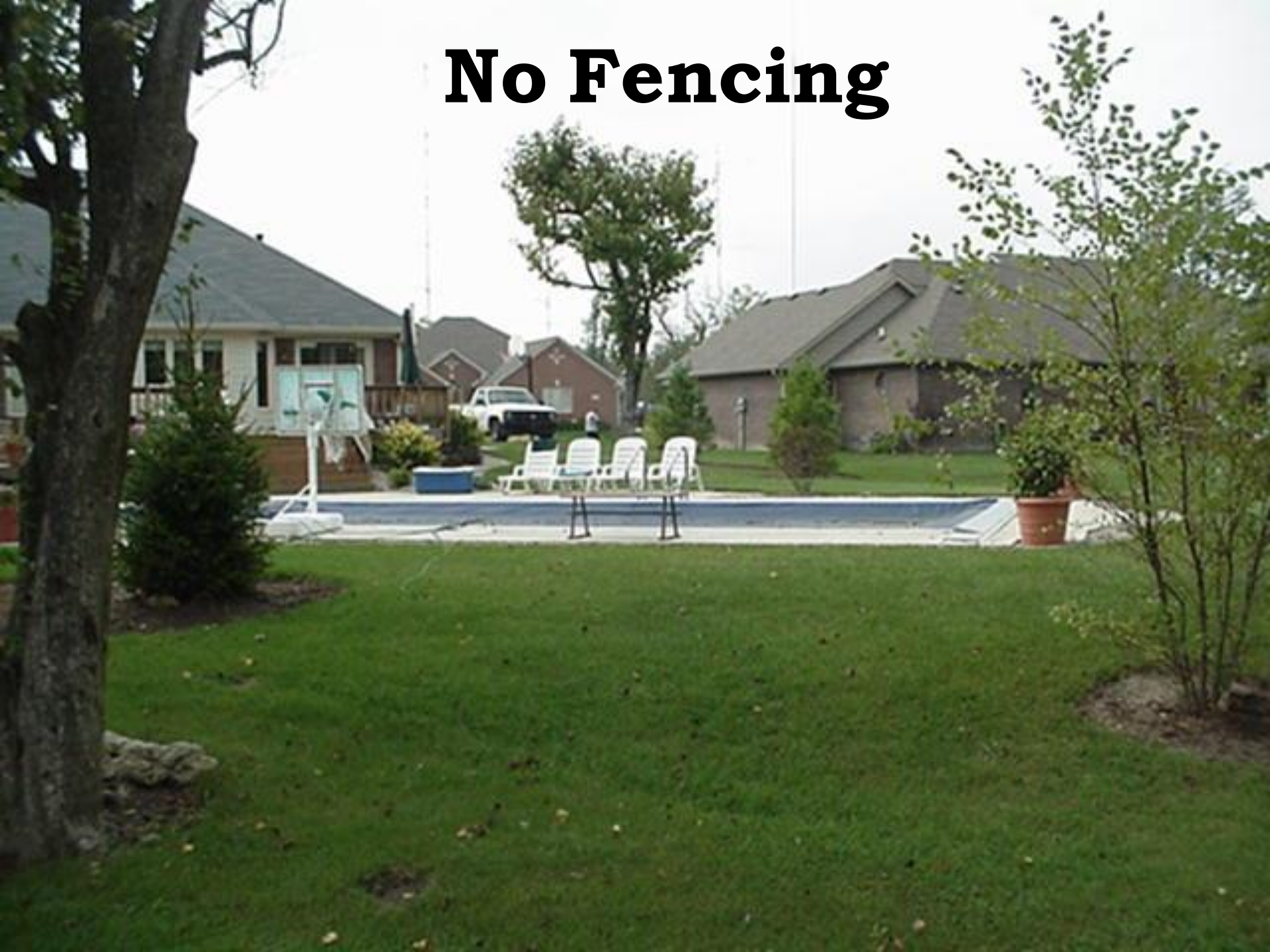




# Pool Covers



# No Fencing



# Above Ground Pools and Other Hazards



# Retention Pond Hazards



# Retention Pond Hazards

- Debris & underwater obstruction
- Underwater entanglement
- No adult supervision
- Deep mud & low visibility
- Aquatic plant life
- No personal floatation devices
- Remote unseen retention ponds
- Unsupervised boating



# **Underwater Entanglement**



**No Adult Supervision**



# **Deep Mud And Low Visibility**







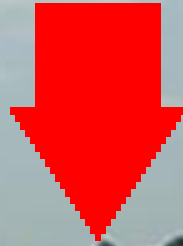




# Remote, Unseen Retention Ponds



# Remote, Unseen Retention Ponds



# Home Hazards



# Home Hazards

- Bathtubs
- Hot tubs
- Spas
- Whirlpools
- Water-filled containers



Can you spot the rip?



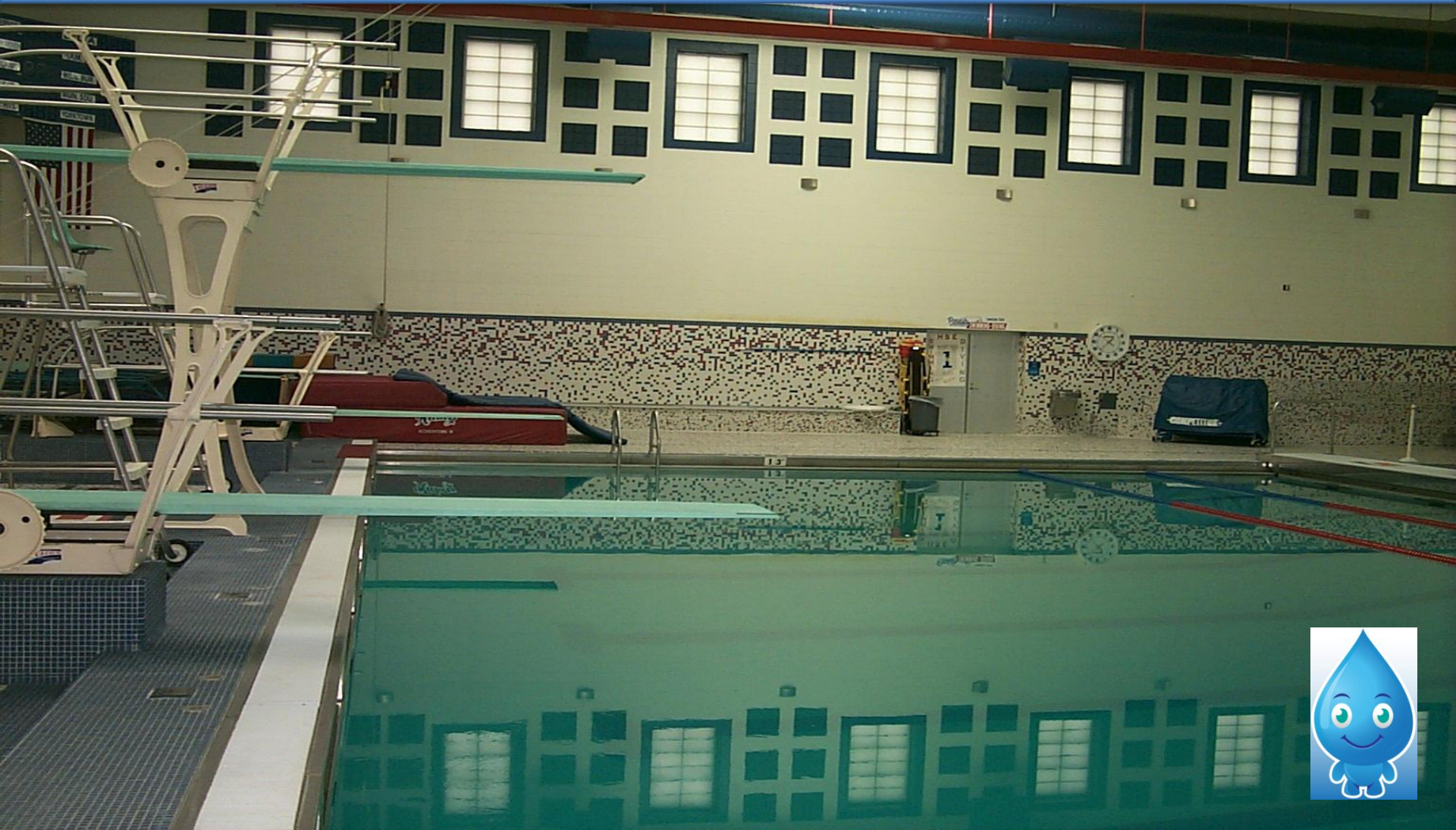
Photo: NOAA



# Rip Current Hazards

- Rip currents are present on many beaches (even in lakes) every day of the year
- Don't assume! Great weather doesn't always mean it's safe to swim or even play in the shallows. Rip currents often form on calm, sunny days.
- Rip currents move you off shore and you're unable to get back because of fear, panic, exhaustion or lack of swimming skills
- They can move fast – faster than even an Olympic swimmer

# Prevention Tips for Pools



**Never leave a child  
unsupervised in or around  
water...anywhere!**



# Ensure Children Use Personal Floatation Devices



# Install Four-Sided Isolation Fencing With Self Latching Gates



# Never Dive In Water Less Than 9 Feet Deep



# Keep Rescue Equipment Near the Pool Side



# Prevention Tips for Retention Ponds



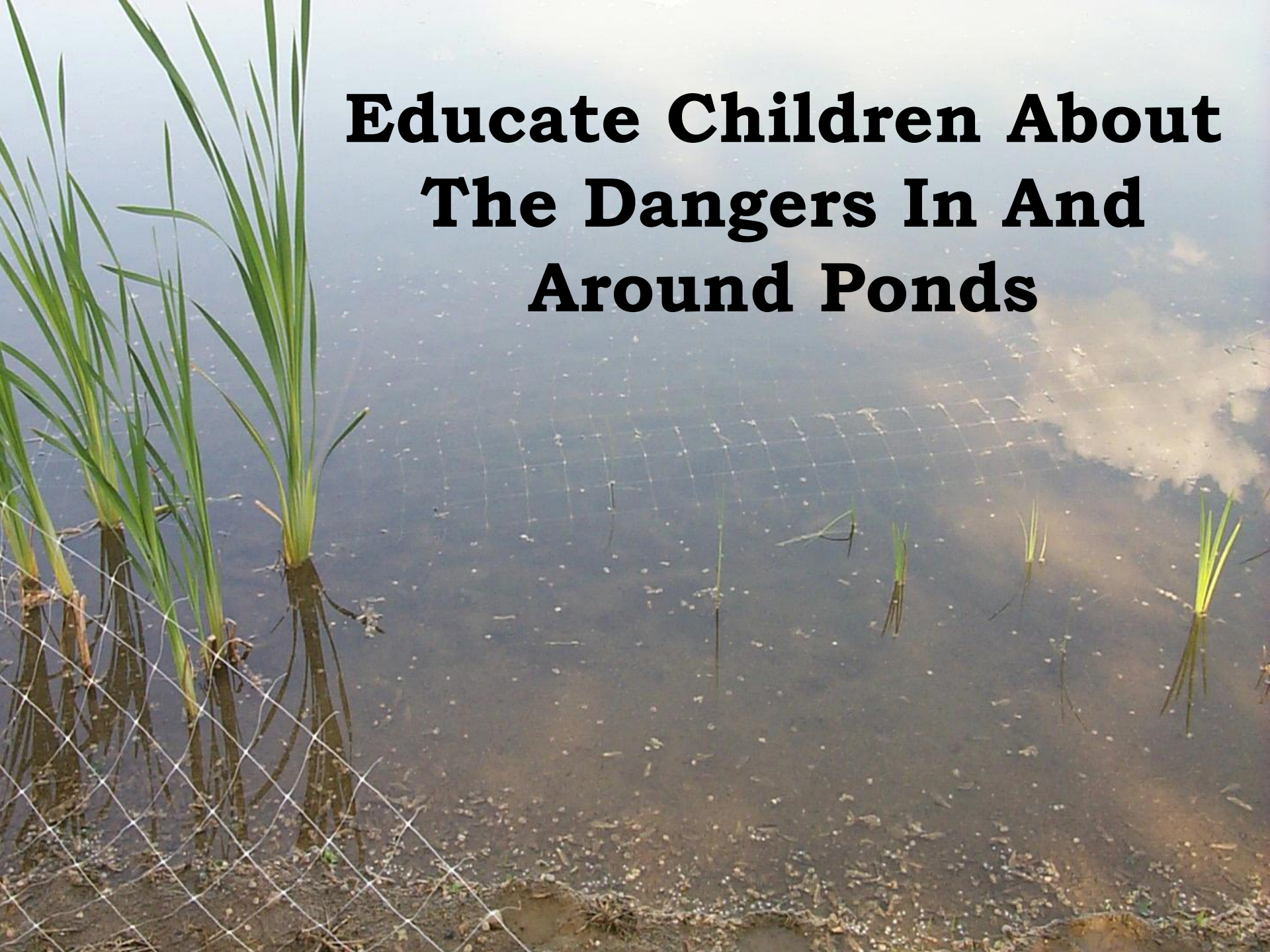


# Prevention Tips for Retention Ponds

- Know the bodies of water in your area
- Work as a group to monitor ponds in your neighborhood



# **Educate Children About The Dangers In And Around Ponds**



# Be Ready To Act. Learn To Use Rescue Devices



# Use proper personal floatation devices during open water activities



# Supervise children around open water



A photograph of a retention pond. The water is dark and murky, with a lot of debris floating on the surface, including leaves, twigs, and small plants. The banks are muddy and have some sparse green grass growing. The overall scene is somewhat neglected and unappealing.

**NEVER**

**Let children  
wade or  
swim in  
retention  
ponds**

# Prevention Tips for Rip Tides

- Learn to swim in surf and never swim alone
  - It's not the same as a pool
- Check water conditions before going in
  - Look at the local beach forecast
  - Talk to the lifeguard
- Look for posted signs and warning flags which may indicate higher than usual hazards
- Only swim at a beach with lifeguards
  - Chances of drowning at a beach with lifeguards are 1 in 18 million
- Be cautious! Always assume rip currents are present even if you don't see them -- If in doubt, don't go out!
- Throw the rip current victim something that floats – don't go in and become a victim

# Finally...



- Don't ice skate on ponds!
- Don't skate on ice over moving water
- Skate only at skating rinks





# Safety Tips

- Never leave children in or around water without adult supervision
- Don't become a victim while trying to help save your friend – call 911 and go get help!
- Teach children to swim at an early age
- Always follow posted rules
- Use appropriate flotation devices
- Install 4 sided isolation fencing with self-latching gates
- Never wade, swim or play in retention ponds or on ice
- Educate your family, friends and neighbors on water safety and awareness



# Special thanks to



## Indianapolis Fire Department



## Fishers Fire Department



# Special thanks to



# Special thanks to



Indiana State  
Department of Health



YMCA

idea**avenue**

We build strong kids,  
strong families, strong communities.



**Special thanks to**

**Your local Fire Department**



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# Thanks for coming!



**Have fun. But remember  
to be safe around and promote water  
awareness in your neighborhood!**