

MEDIA ADVISORY



**From The Office of Fire Chief Chip Prather
Contact Captain Stephen J. Miller, Public Information Officer, (714) 573-6201**

May 21, 2007

Drowning IS Preventable

The Orange County Fire Authority along with many other agencies and organizations will be hosting a press conference in preparation for the summer months to discuss water safety. Drowning continues to be the leading cause of death for children under the age of 5 and the second leading cause for children 5-14, and yet is preventable.

The event will take place at the Blue Buoy Swim School in Tustin, at 1702 Nisson Road from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday May 24th. Press conference starts at 10:00 a.m. Speakers will include drowning prevention experts from OCFA, Johnny Johnson – Safer 3, Janet Evans – 3 time Olympic swimmer, Sherry Alberoni (Van Meter) – former Mouseketeer and drowning prevention advocate, to name a few.

The event will start with a press conference and then individual interviews will be accommodated along with plenty of visuals or demos for B-roll. In addition to the above there will be other agencies and parents to interview along with children in the pool.

There will also be static displays of water rescue equipment including a swift water unit, lifeguard unit, harbor patrol boat, ambulance and fire engine.

Although drowning occurs year round, the OCFA intensifies it's prevention efforts during the summer months, when drownings increase, starting Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day weekend. We invite your participation to help in our efforts to educate the public on this issue.

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For additional information contact, Captain Stephen J. Miller, Public Information Officer, (714) 573-6201.