



Florence County Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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New Water Safety Kiosk Up at Twin Falls Boat Landing

[Florence, WI] –

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (2019), drowning is the leading cause of injury death in U.S. children 1 to 4 years of age and the third leading cause of unintentional injury death among U.S. children and adolescents 5 to 19 years of age. Age, sex, and race and/or ethnicity also contribute to the rate of drowning death (AAP, 2020). However, toddlers and males adolescents are at highest risk and black children 5 to 14 years of age are three times more likely than white children to drown (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). In addition, half of the children treated for drowning often times require hospitalization and/or transfer to a specialty unit of which many are left with debilitating and permanent injuries from brain injuries (CDC, 2020).

The Florence County community is committed to preventing child injury by supporting and initiating measures that will save lives. Due to the number of natural bodies of water in our area, drowning has the potential to occur at an increased rate. According to The World Health Organization (WHO), strategies to address drownings include swimming lessons, signage, and availability of Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) (Preventing drowning: an implementation guide, 2017). Therefore, the health department, along with many community partners, has erected several water safety stations that consist of educational information and are supplied with personal flotation devices for public use. Please call the Florence County Health Department (715.528.4837) with any questions and/or concerns about the safety kiosk program. Kiosks can be found at Badwater Ski Area, Twin Falls Boat Landing, Keyes Lake Beach, Fischer Lake Beach, and West Bass Beach.

For more information, go to the Florence County Health Department webpage at <http://www.florencecountywi.com/>. The Florence County Health Department is located on the first floor of the courthouse. Need health insurance? Visit access.wi.gov to see if you qualify for benefits.

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