



# TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of the  
**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

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## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BULLETIN

School is out, the weather is warm and most residential swimming pools are open and in full use for the summer months. The Town of Medfield wants all residents, especially children to enjoy swimming pools safely, so we are taking this opportunity to remind homeowners to be diligent regarding pool safety.

A recent report from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) cited accidental drownings of children under the age of 15 are on the rise, and remain the leading cause of unintentional death among children 1-4 years of age.

According to the report in 2016 there were 389 reported fatalities involving children under 15, 74% were under 5, and 72% were in residential locations.

The CPSC recommends the following for Pool Safety:

- Designate a “Water Watcher” to supervise children at all times in the water, and this individual should not be reading, or using electronic devices that may distract attention from swimmers.
- Learn to swim, and teach children to swim
- Learn to perform CPR for children and adults

In addition The Medfield Building Department regulates pools and pool areas under the State Building Code, 2015 International Pool and Spa Code, and 2015 International Property Maintenance Code and requires the following:

- All in ground Pools are required to have 4’ Barrier (Fence) enclosing the pool area, with gates that are self-closing and self-latching, with the latch release located 54” above grade.
- Fence/ Barrier openings shall not exceed 4”
- Dwelling Doors and windows leading directly to the pool area must be alarmed to notify occupants of pool access.

- Pool Covers DO NOT replace the barrier requirements unless they are ASTM F 1346 compliant and approved by the Medfield Building Commissioner for use.
- Above ground pools are required to be 48” high or have a barrier (including the wall of the pool itself) that extends to 48”.
- Ladders to access above ground pools need to lock up in place or be removable.
- Pool Filter inlets should be properly screened and protected to avoid entrapment
- ALL Pool Safety Components are required to be in place and maintained in good working condition at all times.

The Town of Medfield wants everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer. If you have any questions about Pool Safety, or you would like a Building Official to inspect your existing pool for safety, please feel free to contact the Medfield Building Department at 508-906-3005.

**Gary D Pelletier, CBO**  
**Building Commissioner/  
Zoning Enforcement Officer**