

World Water Safety Conference

Portugal

September 2007

1. Overview

- 47 countries, over 300 delegates
- Held in Porto, Portugal 27, 28, 29 September 2007
- International Drowning Definition:

Drowning is the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion / immersion in liquid. There are 2 types: fatal and non-fatal

2. World Drowning Report 2007

- Major lack of statistics worldwide
 - 5 million drown each year
 - 500 000 fatal
 - 1,370 per day
 - 1 person per minute
- Drowning deaths need to be statistically measured, no matter what caused the drowning
- In Asia, drowning kills more children than TB and HIV
 - Two thirds of drownings occur in childhood
 - Two thirds of childhood drownings occur before the age of 5
 - Only 2% of worldwide drownings are recreational
- Drowning in the developing world (Michael Linnan, The Alliance for Safe Children/TASC)
 - a. "Swimming as a vaccination" against drowning
 - b. The lifesaver needs to be the peer
 - c. The CHILD has to be the centre of the life saving matrix
 - d. Educate the parents and older siblings
 - e. WHO – We Help Ourselves

3. Models around the world

- New Zealand
 - a. Drownbase – national database of statistics
 - b. “Swim for Life” – multi media campaign
- Australia
 - a. Impact studies of water safety media campaigns
 - b. “Swim for Life” – community projects
- Bangladesh
 - a. Fundamental strategy to prevent drowning:
 - i. Under 5 = supervise
 - ii. Over 5 = teach to swim

(Efficient use of resources using existing structures and community involvement)

Cost = \$2,5 per child
- Germany
 - a. Kindergarten Programme
 - b. Nivea – 600 events per year
 - c. Volunteers
 - d. Teach teachers to be swimming teachers at kindergarten level
- Canada – Swim to Survive Programme
 - 3 skills, 3 lessons, 3 hours, Grade 3 school program
 - i. Roll into deep water
 - ii. Tread water for 1 minute
 - iii. “swim” 50m

4. CPR Guidelines (AJ Handley, Chief Medical Advisor, Royal Lifesaving Society UK)

- a. Bystander CPR doubles survival from out of hospital cardiac arrest
- b. At what age can children provide effective chest compressions?
(Jones 1 et al BMJ 2007) 13 years
- c. 6 months after course skills deteriorate

5. WaterWise Warriors

- a. Strengths:
 - i. Peer rescue encouraged
 - ii. Bystander CPR skills taught and mannequins used
- b. Challenges:
 - i. Lack of statistics
 - ii. Need for measurable impact studies
- c. Opportunities:
 - i. Presentation of a paper at the next World Water Safety Conference.
 - ii. Formulation of a national water safety coalition, to encourage standards equivalency
 - iii. To emerge as the “expert” organization for water safety in South Africa