



June 26, 2014

"In summer is when you really grow up."

Olivia Wilde (b. 1984)
American actress

So far this year,
13 children have died
after being left in hot cars.

[You'd Never
Forget Your Child in the Car,
Right?](#)

Use Wingman to Stay Safe on the Water This Summer

It's a fact of summer that people who wouldn't dream of getting on a motorcycle or bicycle without a helmet, who wouldn't dare drive without their seat belts, and who routinely look three times—right, left, right—before crossing any street, approach water safety as just a day at the beach.

According to statistics from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), 10 people die daily from unintentional drowning. Of these two are under the age of 14. Or put another way: eight out of 10 people who drown each day are 15 or older, and the majority of these drowning victims are males.

More to the point of the Wingman culture, on the [Air Force Reserve Wingman Toolkit](#) it states that "mishap prevention also depends on responsible behavior." Often, that means looking out for the other guy.

Don't swim alone...but don't let others swim alone. What looks like the perfect place to dive into the river and cool off, is too shallow, too deep, too rocky, too swift. Who knows? If you have a Wingman and there's a mishap, you're less likely to sustain a fatal injury. It gives one the edge in mitigating the dangers.

Boating is another source of summer fun and summer danger. The Coast Guard reports that in nearly 85 percent of drownings that are a direct result of a boating mishap, the victim was not wearing a life vest. Add the fact that alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents, and the role of the Wingman comes into sharper focus.

The deadliest factor in summer drownings is lack of swimming ability. For years, the [American Red Cross](#) has offered age-appropriate swimming and water safety classes in just about every zip code. While learning to swim plays a major role in staying safe in any body of water, having someone with you who knows what to do in case of emergency yields big benefits. Being prepared for the unexpected and by knowing CPR and basic first aid, fatalities and serious injury can be averted.

Learning what the warning flags at the beach mean is an easy way to stay safe. A large blue flag being blown by a stiff off-shore wind means...what?...Hurricane? Shark? Riptide? Sometimes the Wingman is the person in the lifeguard chair, whether you know his name or not.

Yet, accidents happen, whether your Wingman is there or not. Anticipating that, and thinking the unthinkable beforehand can go a long way in emergency preparedness. These five safety tips help avert trouble and make sure that summertime memories are happy ones:

If a child is missing, check the pool, hot tub or shoreline first. Seconds count.

Know CPR and when to use it.

Avoid alcohol use. It impairs judgment, balance and coordination.

Keep a fully charged cell phone handy, and know when to call 911 and when and how to call the Coast Guard for help. Know your location.

Check the weather before you venture out, and be ready to head indoors if a sudden storm arises.

► TRENDING ...

"When you list your employer and occupation, you then are representing it and can be held accountable for the things you post," said Staff Sgt. John Bainter, 1st Special Operations Wing Public Affairs NCO in charge of social media. "If Airmen post inappropriate things or activities, they could have their core values questioned and can face disciplinary actions," he said, advising that [social media posts can have unintended consequences](#).

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Libraries launch "Paws to Read" summer reading program](#)

More than a reading list, age-appropriate activities for children, teens and adults are available at base libraries and online.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force raises enlisted accessions limit](#)

Department of Defense Instruction calls for raising the enlistment age in all 130-plus enlisted career specialties.

[Pulse on AF force management](#)

Fewer Airmen are eligible for involuntary force management boards.

[Pilots, combat systems officers may be eligible for retention incentives](#)

Force resizing results in a hard look at the right balance of skills and how best to achieve that balance.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Force Improvement Program changing future of Global Strike](#)

Supporting and empowering the Airmen who perform the nuclear mission are at the heart of the improvements being made in the Force Improvement Program.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

June 26, 1909 - Glenn H. Curtiss flew his first Curtiss airplane in exhibitions at the Aeronautical Society's meet at Morris Park aerodrome. These were the first flights over New York City.

June 27, 1950 – KOREAN WAR. Fifth Air Force accepted a mission to establish air superiority over S. Korea to prevent N. Korean air attacks on Republic of Korea forces and to protect evacuation forces. When N. Korean planes appeared over Kimpo and Suwon Airfields, USAF fighters engaged them in the first air battle. Major James W. Little, the 339th Fighter All-Weather Squadron Commander, fired the first shot; however, Lt William G. Hudson flying an F-82 Twin Mustang from the 68th Fighter All-Weather Squadron scored the first aerial victory by shooting down an enemy Yak-11. In all, six pilots shot down seven N. Korean propeller-driven fighters over Kimpo, the highest number of USAF aerial victories in one day for 1950.

June 28, 1917 - Langley Field was authorized as an experimental air station.

June 29, 1950 - KOREAN WAR. President Truman authorized Gen. MacArthur to dispatch air forces against targets in North Korea

June 30, 1982 - Rockwell International rolled out the Space Shuttle Challenger.

July 1, 1996 - An Air Force crew flew an EA-6B Prowler off the deck of the USS Constellation for the first time.

July 2, 1943 – Lt. Charles Hall, 99th Fighter Squadron, became the first US black pilot to shoot down an Axis plane, a German Focke-Wulf 190 over Sicily.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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