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## Fourth of July Holiday Signals Increased Risk for Child Drownings

PHOENIX, Ariz. (July 3, 2007) – Data collected by Water Watchers at Phoenix Children’s Hospital shows a strong link between child drownings and summer holidays.

In 2006, two children were pulled from West Valley swimming pools the week of the Fourth of July. A nine-month-old of Scottsdale drowned in a family pool on Independence Day 2005. The summer before a nine-year-old drowned in a Phoenix pool on the Fourth.

Tiffany Isaacson, Water Safety Coordinator for Water Watchers at Phoenix Children’s, says supervision is critical. She recommends designating a “water watcher,” a responsible adult committed to watching swimmers.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the chance of drowning at a beach protected by designated lifeguards is less than one in 18 million,” said Isaacson. “A designated water watcher can significantly reduce the likelihood of a drowning and save a life.”

Isaacson asks all Valley residents to practice the ABC’s of Water Safety this holiday and swimming season:

- **A**dult supervision when children have access to water is critical.
- **B**arriers must be placed between children and water. Isaacson says an effective barrier could have prevented 95 percent of the drownings studied by the Arizona Child Fatality Review Team.
- **C**lasses in CPR for adults, and swimming lessons for children at the appropriate age, can round out a family’s water safety plan.

For more information on water safety, visit the Hospital’s website or contact Water Watchers at Phoenix Children’s at (602) 546-1712.

Phoenix Children’s Hospital is Arizona’s leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children’s hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Phoenix Children’s leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children’s, visit the Hospital’s website at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).