16th Annual Great Lakes Beach Association Conference

DROWNING: THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC
Practical Solutions for YOUR Beach

Bob Pratt
Director of Education
Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project
SCOPE
Winner of the NDPA’s 2012 "Lifesaver of the Year" Award

Our teaching, our data, our passion will live on in those who share our common goal... SAVING LIVES!

Statistics

84 Great Lakes Drownings in 2016

Plus 4 Lake Michigan drownings listed in Critical Condition

522 Great Lakes Drownings since 2010 (+/-)

GREAT LAKES, USA – The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project (GLSRP) announces its current drowning statistics. In 2016, the GLSRP is tracking 84 Great Lakes drownings. Overall since 2010, the GLSRP has tracked 522 Great Lakes drownings. Full statistics here (74 drownings in 2010; 87 in 2011; 101 in 2012, 67 in 2013, 54 in 2014, 55 in 2015, and 84 to date in 2016). Note: * = (+/-) Awaiting 100% confirmation of
33 MILLION DOLLARS
City supervisor fired, another resigns in wake of Warwick City Park drowning

Probe concludes beach was understaffed by lifeguards when 6-year-old drowned, says Mayor Scott Avedisian
Woman Rescues Swimmers Caught in Rip Current in Lake Michigan

By CATHERINE THORBECKE - Sep 7, 2016, 11:48 AM ET

SOURCE: JONT MUNI

CAUGHT ON CAMERA
EX-LIFEGUARD TO THE RESCUE
SEES SWIMMERS STRUGGLING IN LAKE MICHIGAN
SAFER THREE
Beaches along Great Lakes to get life-saving aids

In a 2011 photo provided by the Michigan Sea Grant, a rescue line bag and ring buoy are seen from the Great Lakes Water Safety Conference 2011 in Gaylord, Mich. An effort to prevent people from drowning due to dangerous currents along the Great Lakes includes installing kits with life-saving aids including a ring buoy at 10 public beaches along Lake Michigan. Michigan Sea Grant announced Monday, May 19, 2014, that kits will be...
DANGER!!!
UNGUARDED BEACH AREA

Unknown hazards may exist including:
- High Waves
- Strong Currents
- Deep Water
- Dangerously Cold Water
- Submerged Objects

Be aware of your abilities and the conditions before you enter the water.
When in doubt, DON'T GO OUT!

PIER SAFETY

Pier Safety Guidelines
- This is not a public property, proceed at your own risk.
- Use caution if pier is not well lit, especially if waves wash over the pier or if storm conditions exist.
- Please, no bicycles or skateboards.
- Use ladders & walkways with caution.
- Diving or jumping from pier is not advised.

In Memory of Caleb Sutter

The Pier Safety Project

Begun after Caleb Sutter, a 15-year-old Frankfort youth, was washed off of the Frankfort Pier and drowned, June 20, 2000.

In an effort to keep our pier safe and accessible to visitors and residents, funds were raised for these life-saving devices.

The Caleb Memorial Fund is an ongoing project, with future contributions to be used to develop Water Safety Education in our schools, and equipment replacement. Donations are gratefully accepted at the Frankfort-Elberta Area Chamber of Commerce.
BEACH RULES
- All city ordinances are enforced on the beach including:
- Beach closed 10PM to 6AM
- Alcohol beverages are prohibited on all public beaches and parking lots
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times
- You are responsible to pick-up animal fecal matter
- No vehicles on beach
- No fires
- No glass

DONATED BY PORT WASHINGTON LIONS CLUB

SWIMMING SAFETY AWARENESS
WARNING
NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK
DANGEROUS CURRENTS MAY BE PRESENT
- Don't swim near rocks or breakwall
- Never swim alone (have a swim buddy)
- It only takes seconds to drown (watch children closely)

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN A DANGEROUS CURRENT
- Keep calm, don't panic
- Flip, float, and follow
- When in doubt, don't go out!

For more information regarding lake conditions, beaches, and water safety:
www.weather.gov
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.lslrp.org
www.wibeaches.us

FLAG SIGNAL SYSTEM
RED FLAG → No swimming, hazardous conditions
YELLOW FLAG → Caution, dangerous conditions
GREEN FLAG → Good conditions

DO NOT WALK ON SHELF ICE
DROWNING?

THEN FLIP,
Flip over onto your back and float.

FLOAT,
Float to:
- Keep head above water.
- Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don’t panic.
- Conserve your energy.

AND FOLLOW!
Follow the safest course to safety:
1. Do not fight the current.
2. Follow the current to assess which way it’s flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
3. Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.

SAND BAR

Great Lakes SURF RESCUE PROJECT
GLSRP.ORG
WHAT DOES DROWNING LOOK LIKE?

THE SIGNS OF DROWNING

1. FACING SHORE
2. MOUTH AT WATER LEVEL
3. HEAD TILTED BACK
4. BODY VERTICAL
5. CLIMBING LADDER MOTION

SAND BAR

Great Lakes SURF RESCUE PROJECT
GLSRP.ORG
Winning of the NDPA’s 2012 "Lifesaver of the Year" Award

The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project has a single goal TO SAVE LIVES.

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The Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium (GLWSC) is the umbrella group for all water safety organizations and advocates committed to ending drowning in the Great Lakes, through collaboration, education, and action.

The mission of the GLWSC is to connect all groups and individuals interested in water safety to maximize our collective knowledge, resources, and actions to END DROWNING IN THE GREAT LAKES.

An official 501c3 nonprofit, the GLWSC is a "community of BEST practice," bringing together more than 200 first responders, community leaders, park rangers, scientists, meteorologists, survivors, loved ones, and other water safety advocates, including:
THANK YOU!!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

Bob Pratt  
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GREAT LAKES SURF RESCUE PROJECT

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