



Drowning Prevention

The Directorate General of Health (DGS) has launched a prevention campaign, warning that this year 2017 more than 40 people have already died through drowning in Portugal.

According to the Association for the Promotion of Child Safety (APSI), for every child who dies drowned, another two to three are hospitalized following a drowning.

Data from the Drowning Observatory, a platform of the Portuguese Federation of Swimmers-Saviors, indicate that this year, until May 1, 36 people have drowned, half of them on the beaches. After these data were disseminated, there were several cases of recorded drownings, especially in non-monitored areas.

The observatory figures also indicate that the deaths occurred not only on beaches, but also on rivers, wells, irrigation tanks, pools, ditches and marinas.

According to data from the National Maritime Authority, from May 1 to September 30, 2016, 17 people died in accidents related to the bathing season, an increase in fatalities compared to the previous year.

The DGS warns that drowning deaths can be avoided with prevention and advises adults to watch over children, to install barriers to access pools and water reservoirs, to always choose places that are considered safe and vigilant and always safety.

According to data from the World Health Organization, 372,000 people die from drowning in the world each year. They also indicate that more than half of drowning deaths occur in people under 25 years of age, being in fact one of the ten leading causes of death in the world up to that age, and that in men the probability of drowning is twice as high.

In terms of ages, the highest rates of drowning are among children from 1 to 4 years of age.

In the case of children, the main places of drowning are pools (28%), followed by beaches (22%), tanks and wells (22%) and rivers, streams and lagoons (22%).

The latest APSI data indicate that drowning continues to be the second leading cause of accidental death in children and recalls that the months of July and August are "the most critical."

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