

Some Water Smart® parting thoughts brought to you by the Lifesaving Society Manitoba Branch:

- 1. If you are not within arms reach you've gone too far!** Never leave a child alone in, on or near water and always supervise them closely.
- 2. Choose it! Use it!** Always wear a lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device when boating or when in, on or around water.
- 3. Play and swim in supervised areas.** 98% of all water-related deaths in Manitoba occur in situations without lifeguard supervision.
- 4. Always swim with a buddy!** Many drownings occur in within a very small distance from others. Watch out for each other!
- 5. Be water smart. Learn to swim.** Nearly 40% of drowning victims in Manitoba are non-swimmers.
- 6. Learn lifesaving and first aid skills.** Nearly two-thirds of Manitoba victims could swim – learning to swim is not enough. Learn rescue skills to be able to help yourself and others.
- 7. Feet first – first time.** Protect yourself and know where it is safe to dive. A spinal injury from a water-related incident could result in paralysis or death.
- 8. Don't go overboard.** Boozing and boating don't mix. Impaired boating is just as serious as impaired driving. Alcohol is involved in 31% of water-related deaths in Manitoba.
- 9. Make every trip a round trip.** Drive your powerboat or personal watercraft responsibly. Sit down and don't rock the boat. Drive at moderate speeds, be aware of changing weather conditions and tell someone your travel plans.
- 10. Don't bank on river banks.** Rain and melting snow make river water rise and run fast, a potentially fatal attraction.



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The Lifesaving Society is a national volunteer based charitable organization which works to prevent drownings and water-related incidents through its training programs, public education, research and consultation. Business number for charitable donations: 11912 9047 RR0001

The Lifesaving Society acknowledges assistance in preparing the Manitoba Drowning Report from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.



2005 Drowning Report

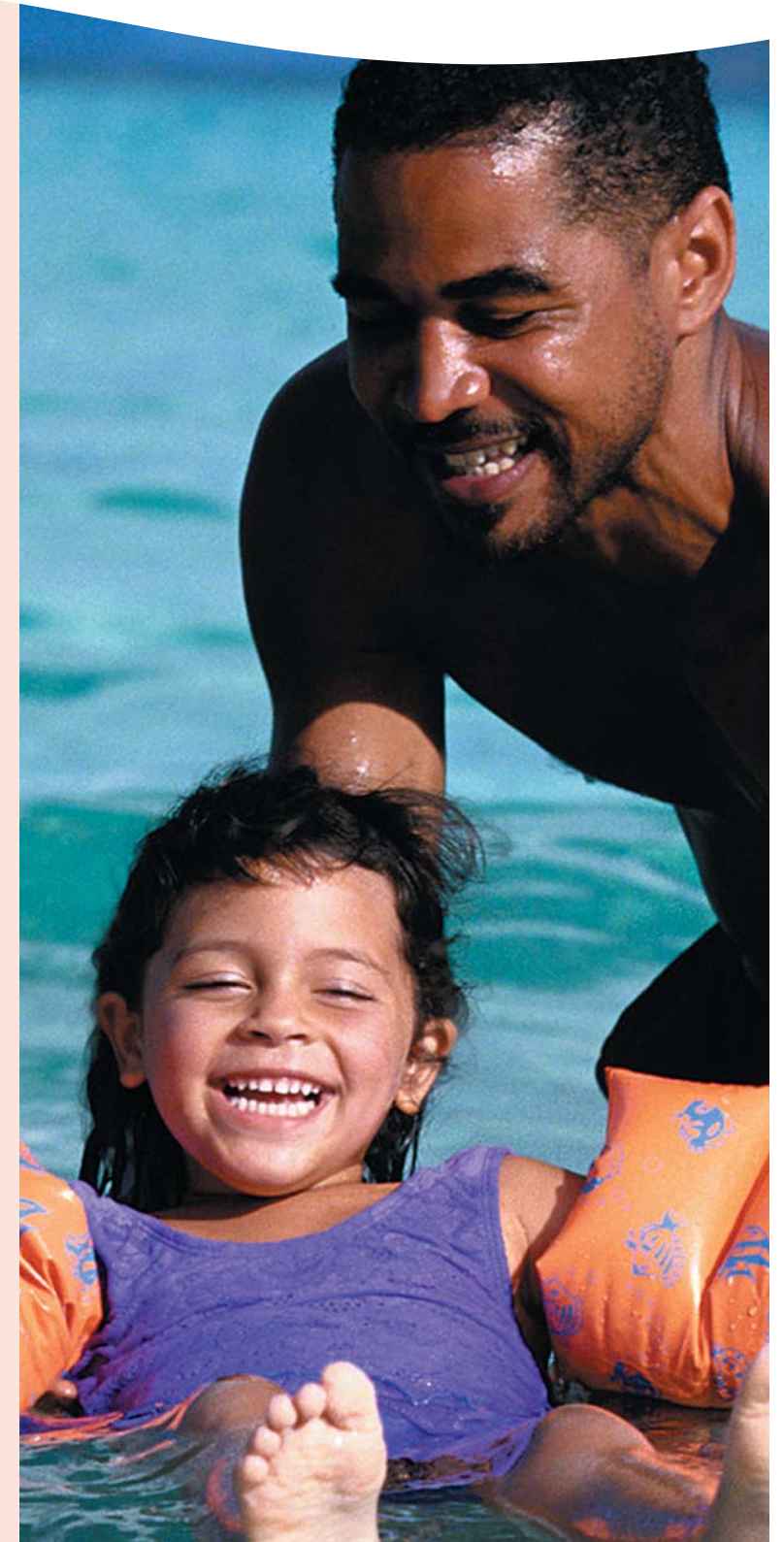
Statistics from 2003 / Preliminary Statistics from 2004

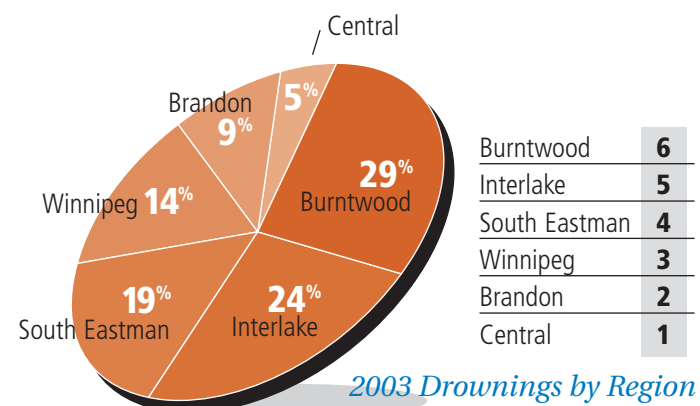
2003 Drowning Statistics

- 21 drownings/water-related fatalities
- 16 males, 5 females
- 53% of all drownings in Manitoba involved Aboriginal People
- 67% of all drownings occurred in the summer months
- The weekend saw the highest number of drowning fatalities with 67%
- 24% of all water-related fatalities occurred in a First Nations Community
- 48% of all water-related fatalities involved people in the 18-34 age brackets
- 10 of the 21 water-related fatalities had a blood alcohol level above the legal limit
- 7 of the 10 water-related fatalities that had a blood alcohol level 3 or more times above the legal limit
- 4 of the 21 water-related fatalities involved the use of illegal drugs
- Lifejackets were not worn or present in any of the boating accidents where fatalities occurred

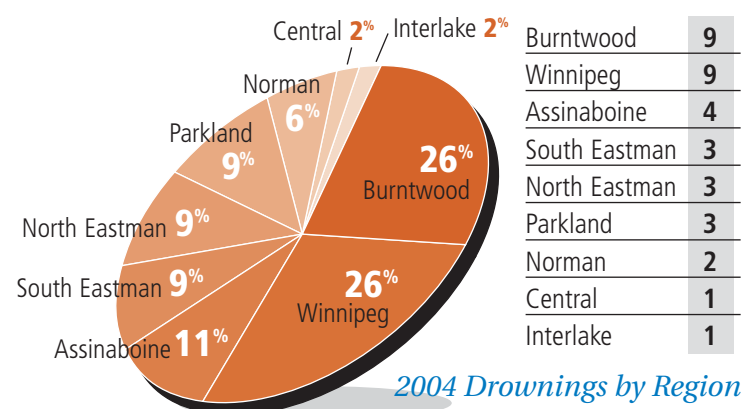
Preliminary Drowning Statistics from 2004

- 35 drownings/water-related fatalities
- 27 males
- 8 females
- 11 % of all drowning fatalities involved children under the age of 4
- 26% of all drowning fatalities were people in the 18-34 age bracket
- Winnipeg and the Burntwood region had the highest amount of water-related fatalities each with 26% of total drownings for 2004 or 52% of the total drownings for 2004





Burntwood	6
Interlake	5
South Eastman	4
Winnipeg	3
Brandon	2
Central	1



Burntwood	9
Winnipeg	9
Assinaboine	4
South Eastman	3
North Eastman	3
Parkland	3
Norman	2
Central	1
Interlake	1

Comparisons

- Water-related fatalities were up approximately 67% in 2004
- The Winnipeg region saw the greatest increase in drownings in 2004; there were a total of 9 drownings in this region in 2004 compared to 3 in 2003.
- The Burntwood region still has the leading number of drownings and water-related fatalities in Manitoba in 2004 there were a total of 9 drownings in this region up from 6 in 2003.
- All of the water-related fatalities in both 2003 and 2004 occurred with little to no supervision when the victim was under the age of 16.
- In 2003 1 in 7,500 people in the Burntwood Region were victims of drownings
- In 2004 1 in 5,000 people in the Burntwood Region were victims of drownings
- In 2003 1 in 220,000 people in the Winnipeg Region were victims of drownings
- In 2004 1 in 73,000 people in the Winnipeg Region were victims of drownings
- In 2003 1 in 56,000 people in Manitoba were victims of drownings
- In 2004 1 in 34,000 people in Manitoba were victims of drownings

Danger Lie Everywhere

2004 saw 3 children under the age of two drown as a result of being left unsupervised in aquatic settings around the home. The Lifesaving Society would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the dangers that lie within your own homes. Parents need to be aware that any standing water around the home can pose a danger to young children. Standing water around the home includes puddles, toy swimming pools, bird baths, hot tubs and bathtubs. The Lifesaving Society would leave you with a few tips as to how to keep you and your child safe around the home:

1. Designate a backyard pool lifeguard. An adult should supervise whenever children are using the pool.
2. Stay tub-side until all the water is drained and you have removed your child from the water.
3. Avoid using bath-rings for small children as they are unstable and children may slip out of their seat and under the surface of the water.
4. Drain bathtubs when they are not in use. Empty unattended wading pools and buckets of water and turn them over.
5. Remember all drownings are preventable, stay within arm's reach of your child at all times.
6. Remember parents, lifeguards don't supervise bathtubs you do.



Learn Basic Rescue Skills

The Lifesaving Society would like to express the importance of learning basic rescue techniques and lifesaving skills, including basic first aid and resuscitation skills. We would like to remind you that you are never too young or old to learn these skills. The following stories express the importance of acquiring these basic lifesaving skills.

April 20, 2003

Two year old Eva Habing had wandered away from her mother at a family gathering. She was soon found by Wes Bauml in a dugout gravel pit with approximately four feet of water. Wes removed Eva from the water, and began resuscitation efforts. John Laba was passing by on his dirt bike and was able to transport Eva to the house, where Dave Fill and Les Gabing continued resuscitation efforts. Eva was then transported by Kenny Oneschuk and Ryan Keefe Beausejour Ambulance Attendants continuing resuscitation efforts on their way to Beausejour Health Centre where she was stabilized and then transported to Children's Hospital where she went on to make a full recovery.

June 29, 2004

It was a hot busy day at the Virden swimming pool, when nine year old Carrigan George noticed three year old Ashton Hersak floating vertically fully submerged underwater. Carrigan knew immediately that Ashton was too small to be in the deeper part of the shallow end, and knew something was wrong. Carrigan reacted, swimming over and lifting him to the surface. Carrigan moved to the edge of the pool, and passed Ashton to a Junior Lifeguard, where the young boy was returned safely to his grandmother.

It is individuals such as the ones mentioned in these stories who make us recognize the importance of learning first aid and basic water rescue skills.

