

CREATING A WATER SAFETY PLAN FOR THE US IS A BIG TASK. WE ARE READY FOR THE CHALLENGE.

Thanks to the many hours of time and dedication of all involved, work on the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan (USNWSAP) continues. In this newsletter we'll provide you with a progress update, share some highlights from our ongoing communication efforts, highlight the work of the Rescue/CPR Working Group, and talk about the framework we are creating to ensure the final plan is evidence-based and can be widely implemented.

The urgency of our mission continues. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) released their [annual drowning and submersion report](#), showing an increase in pool- and spa-related fatal drowning incidents among children younger than 15 years old.

Organizations locally and nationally are rising to the challenge. In the U.S., the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a new [drowning prevention website](#). Globally, history was made with the first ever [UN resolution on Global Drowning Prevention](#).

We'll be kicking off the renewed collaboration with World Drowning Prevention Day on July 25. Click [here](#) for more information, and use #DrowningPrevention to get the subject trending.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Phase 3 is almost complete! In keeping with our focus on creating evidence-based recommendations, over 670 evidence documents have been submitted to the NDPA online depository. All Working Groups reached out to the wider field as well, through surveys, roundtable discussions, and key informant interviews.

To view all of the resources available, visit www.NDPA.org and click on "[Resource Center](#)".

Phase 4 is now underway and will involve development of recommendations for action, and identifying topics requiring further research and evaluation. We anticipate this work will be complete in late August 2021.

You can read more about each Working Group and the co-chairs at [our website](#).

Rescue / CPR Working Group

The heat of the summer is upon us and lifeguards, parents, camp counselors, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and volunteers are hard at work preventing drowning. Once prevention has failed, then we rely upon many of these same people to perform rescues and initiate treatment. That's where the Rescue and CPR Working Group comes in! Our team is addressing the role of lay responders and professional rescuers (who may or may not have specific training in water rescue) in natural and artificial bodies of water. We are a group ranging from parents to doctors seeking to find the best way to teach and present the subtle differences between CPR for the drowned person and CPR for sudden cardiac arrest. Fortunately, we have some pretty broad shoulders upon which to stand. The national CPR guidelines are well researched and the product of many hours of expert research. Many of the national lifeguard and rescue agencies have protocols and procedures widely available to compare and contrast.

One of the important tasks of our group is reading between the lines and searching for the gaps in our knowledge, which is the phase that is keeping us engaged this moment.

DROWNING CHAIN OF SURVIVAL

A call to action



Szpilman D, Webber J, Quan L, Bierens J, Morizot-Leite L, Langendorfer SJ, Beerman S, Løfgren B. Creating a Drowning Chain of Survival. Resuscitation. 2014 Sep;85(9):1149-52.

WORKING GROUP FOCUS AREAS

Data/Public Health Surveillance - Focus on what is needed to develop comprehensive drowning data surveillance to inform prevention of fatal and nonfatal drownings.

Supervision/Lifeguards - Focus on how to improve protection and supervision of those near and in all types of open waters, pool, and around the home by parents, group leaders and lifeguards.

Water Safety/Water Competence/Swimming Lessons - Identify needed priorities among the components of water competency, including development of standards, policies/legislation and implementation models for all ages.

Rescue/CPR - Identify what is needed to promote and improve rescue and resuscitation of the drowning victim by laypersons, lifeguards and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Barrier, Entrapment and Electrical Safety - Identify ways to increase the use of fencing, barriers, alarms and emerging technologies that reduce unsupervised access to water.

Life Jackets/Personal Flotation Devices and Other Flotation - Focus on how to increase the use of Coast Guard approved life jackets by boaters, as well as by those recreating in or near the water.

For more information about the Working Groups and bios of the Working Group Chairs, [click here](#).

While we know that an ounce of drowning prevention is worth a pound of drowning treatment, we are happy to serve to educate and inform on the last links in the drowning chain of survival.

COMMUNICATIONS

Collaboration continues, further strengthening the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan.

The American Red Cross has given the USNWSAP permission to use their graphic icons describing various evidence-based practices for drowning prevention. Our thanks to the American Red Cross for their generosity. The use of consistent, high-quality, visual resources allows us to engage the public more effectively, reinforcing key messages.

The USNWSAP development will be part of a conference session around local engagement at Safe Kids PrevCon (July 12-16), further expanding the conversation about water safety among injury prevention professionals. The NDPA continues to be a strong partner. After the

success of the National Water Safety Conference, we are exploring how to leverage the NDPA Fall Symposium to continue engaging the drowning prevention community and build toward the launch.

Within the Steering Committee, a separate group has been formed which is dedicated to Launch and Implementation Planning. We will be working on marketing, communications, and advocacy, as well as considering the best ways to engage key federal and state government partners and organizations with boots on the ground.

USLA and NOAA have provided substantial professional expertise for the first ever documentary on rip currents in the U.S. Did you know rip currents are responsible for 80% of all rescues in the U.S.? The documentary highlights the most recent research on identifying and escaping rip currents conducted by Dr. Rob Brander (Dr. Rip), and includes some familiar faces from the American drowning prevention community. The use of stories and education gives us all the opportunity to expand the conversation about water safety in our communities. [Click here](#) to watch the documentary.

Take advantage of the [amazing communications materials created by the CPSC](#). The more consistent messages we can put out to the public, the better our chances of changing attitudes and behaviors. You can also download free, unbranded, infographics for social media here. <https://www.maketheminutematter.org/resources>

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Programs need funding. The CPSC is awarding up to \$2 million in two-year grants to assist jurisdictions in reducing death and injuries from drowning and drain entrapment incidents in pools and spas. Applications are accepted through July 19, 2021. Much of this funding is left unclaimed every year, so check out the [grant opportunities](#) and contact poolsafely@cpsc.gov today for more information.

DOTTING OUR I'S AND CROSSING OUR T'S

Templates and procedures may not fall under the category of 'glamorous', but every discussion we have circles back to 'how do we get this plan off the shelf and into wide use?'. We focus not just on the 'what' but also on the 'how'. Significant thought has been given to ensuring that we have a series of checks-and-balances to minimize bias, cultivate a wide range of expertise, and move towards consistency, all while maintaining a focus on evidence-based recommendations.

In response to a question about potential conflicts of interest within the development process, the Steering Committee looked at other national plan development processes, committee structures, and conflict of interest documents and developed a Code of Ethics statement for all Co-chairs and Steering Committee members. While we have full confidence of the integrity of all involved and consider this a formality rather than a necessity, this additional step is representative of our ongoing practice of integrating a system of checks-and-balances to ensure that the USNWSAP is evidence-based, represents best practices in the U.S. and beyond, and results in a realistic plan which can be implemented and supported at local, community, state, and national levels.

This continuous quality circle of cross-checking needs your involvement going forward. We encourage everyone to keep the conversation going on social media as you implement the plan in your community. We all need to hear what is working, and what is challenging. Your ongoing feedback will help us all create a culture of water safety in the U.S. which expands over the coming years as the plan is implemented and refined.

U.S. NATIONAL WATER SAFETY ACTION PLAN

WE NEED YOU!

Your involvement makes a difference in creating a culture of water safety in the U.S.

Please download and share this newsletter by clicking here for the .pdf. We also hope you'll visit our website at www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap, like our page and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/USWaterSafetyPlan>

and follow us on Twitter at: [@USWaterSafetyP1](https://twitter.com/USWaterSafetyP1).