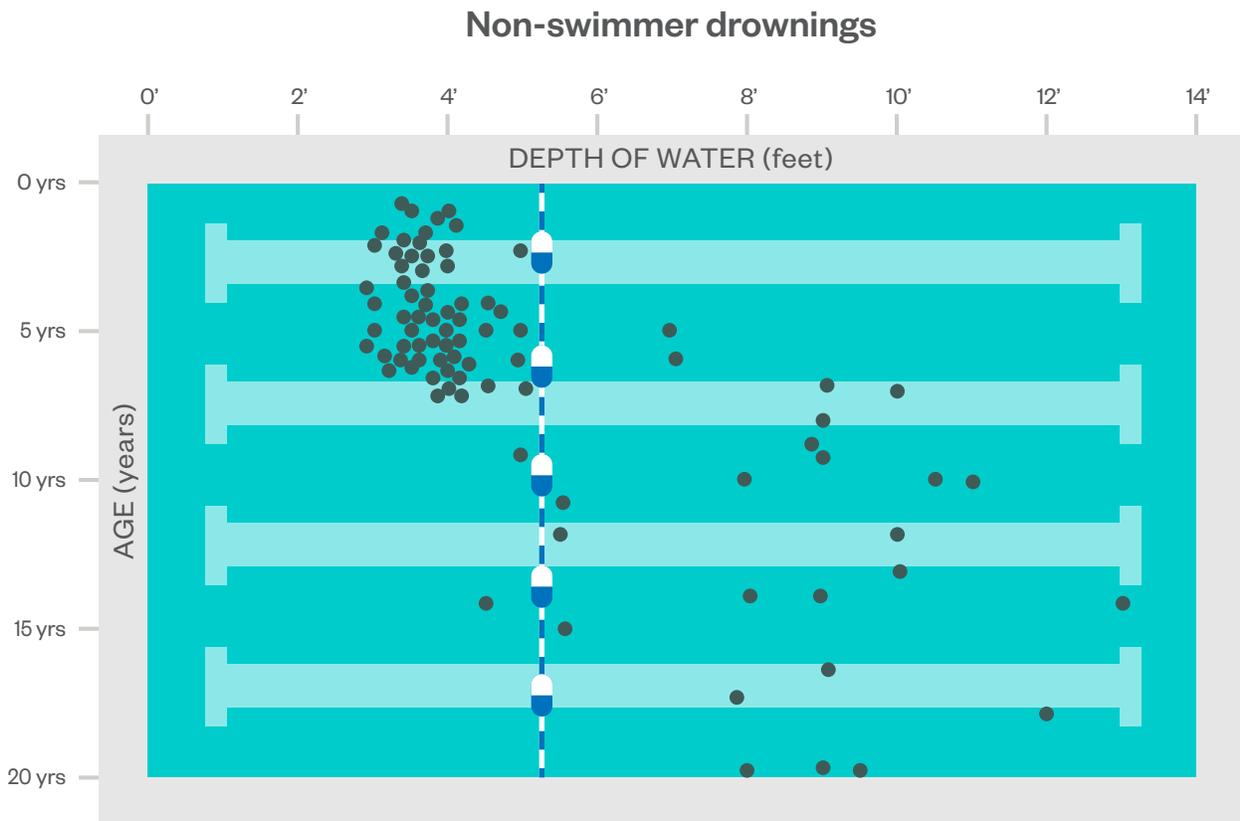


Is the Shallow End Safe for Non-Swimmers?

We analyzed data from our aquatic investigations since 2003 to see where in the pool the majority of non-swimmer drowning incidents occur. The data also allowed us to identify among which age groups they're most common.



Data shows all unconscious aquatic submersion incidents involving non-swimmers between 2003 and August of 2018.

The World Health Organization defines drowning as “the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion or immersion in liquid.” The term drowning does not imply a fatal injury.

69% of non-swimmer drowning incidents happened **in the shallow end**

What can you do?



Test

Test all children who want to enter your aquatic areas (pools, lakes, ponds, etc.). If a child is under the age of 8, you may automatically mark them as a non-swimmer. Anyone who does not pass or chooses not to take the test is treated as a non-swimmer.

Tip: Conduct swim-testing for open swim as well as special events. Swim-testing can be conducted by non-aquatic staff trained in swim test administration. During open swim, you can close the pool for ten minutes each hour to conduct testing.



Mark

Mark all children entering your aquatic areas using breakaway neckbands or wristbands. This allows lifeguards and other adults to identify everyone's swimming ability.



Protect

Protect everyone. Use float ropes to restrict non-swimmers to the shallow end. Be sure they are either within arm's reach of an adult in the water, wearing a properly fitted, Coast Guard-approved life vest or actively engaged in a swim lesson or activity with staff.

Implementing each phase of *Test, Mark, Protect* is essential to creating and maintaining a safe aquatic environment.

For more resources about aquatic safety, visit
www.redwoodsgroup.com/safety-resources/aquatics