



Sunrise Beach Fire Protection District

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JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 29, 2025

The Lake Area Fire Districts, EMS agencies and Law Enforcement Agencies are joining together to promote immediate 911 activation in the case of a missing person, especially children. So far, in 2025 lake area emergency services have responded to six child drownings.

Our area is unique in that we have Lake of the Ozarks, when a call is received for missing person, our responders make checking the shore and pools our top priority. However, often when a child is missing the family and neighbors will attempt to search for the missing person before calling 911.

We have seen significant delays in 911 activation, while we certainly encourage searching as quickly as possible, 911 activation is paramount to getting help to the scene quickly and establishing an organized search effort. Responders bring resources and personnel to search and coordinate both responder and civilian search efforts.

We want our residents, visitors and business owners to know, we can always turn around incoming resources if the missing loved one is located, but early notification is key to a more successful search. While searches do not always yield a positive outcome for the missing person, we are here to serve and assist in any way we can.

When 911 is activated for a missing person, each agency has protocols in place and the community of emergency services come together to assist the agency making a request with manpower, utility vehicles, drones, specialized search and rescue teams and command units.

It's not an embarrassment...its being proactive! Help us help you! When you discover a loved one is missing, call 911!

Things you can do to be proactive before an emergency occurs:

- 1) Know where your child is at all times.
- 2) Enforce rules with your children such as - no one goes near water without a life jacket
- 3) Keep access points to swimming pools locked at all times.
- 4) Encourage all adults to enforce life jackets and rules as a team effort.

Sincerely,

Your Emergency Services

LAKE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES

WOULD LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

IT'S NOT EMBARRASSING, IT'S PROACTIVE!

The Lake Area has experienced at least six pediatric drownings or near drownings in the summer of 2025. We would like to remind everyone that early 911 response greatly increases survivability. If your child is missing, call 911 immediately! Search while you wait, but don't hesitate to get rescuers coming, we can always turn around. Its not embarrassing, it's proactive...and it could mean your child or love one's life!

Be Proactive

- 1) Speak with your child about the dangers of swimming pools and lakes
- 2) Be an example - If your child has to wear a life jacket, adults should too!
- 3) Initiate rules such as - No one on a dock, on a boat or on a pool deck without a life jacket.
- 4) Make sure access to docks and pools are gated and/or locked when no one is around.
- 5) When on the water, small children should never be more than an arm's length away!

Missing Child

- 1) **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!**
- 2) Write down last known location
- 3) Write down physical description or have most recent photo and what they were wearing
- 4) Know your loved one's medical history.
- 5) Check areas of highest danger - Pools, lake front, docks, etc.
- 6) Check known locations such as grandparents homes, neighbors and favorite places
- 7) **DO NOT PLACE YOURSELF IN DANGER - Help us help you!**

