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## Press Release

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### **Houston Parks and Recreation Department Brings Focus to International Water Safety Day** *Staying Safe Is the Key to Fun in the Water*

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will host a celebration of International Water Safety Day on Tuesday, May 15, at the Memorial Park Pool, 6401 Arnot, 77007. The event will take place from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., and will include a variety of water experiences designed to improve the public's awareness of the need for safety vigilance around water.

"We all love to cool off at our neighborhood pools during Houston's hot summer weather, but we should never let our guard down," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "There is nothing more tragic and preventable than a swimming pool drowning. Swimming lessons and water safety classes are keys to enjoying our pools."

As part of International Water Safety Day, aquatics staffers at the Memorial Park Pool will put on water safety demonstrations and water fitness classes. Members of the public will be able to register for swimming classes, and staff lifeguards will be on hand to discuss swimming pool etiquette and safety.

International Water Safety Day will take place in countries across the globe to bring attention to the fact that drowning is the third leading cause of accidental injury death worldwide. On average, 30,000 drowning deaths take place monthly around the world, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to making the upcoming summer swim season safe for everyone who uses one of the City's 38 aquatic centers. The 2012 swim season opens Saturday, May 26, the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*