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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prepare for summer fun at FREE ‘WaterSafe’ event

April 19, 2018 – Flagler County Emergency Services is partnering with agencies and businesses throughout the county to provide an educational yet fun day of water safety instruction for families and children.

WaterSafe 2018 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 28, at the Belle Terre Swim & Racquet Club, 73 Patricia Lane, Palm Coast.

“This event is geared toward families with young children – infants up to 9 years old,” said Emergency Management Chief Jonathan Lord. “Water safety is critical for children in Florida because of our weather and the number of swimming pools and other natural water resources we have.”

Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for children less than 4 years old, and it is the third leading cause of injury-related death for children under 19 years old. Most water-related accidents are avoidable by following a few simple guidelines.

Flagler County Emergency Management, Flagler County Fire Rescue, Flagler Beach Ocean Rescue, Flagler Beach Fire Department, Flagler County Schools, Belle Terre Swim & Racquet Club, and EM Pros (Emergency Medicine Professionals) will participate by providing instruction and informational literature about water safety and survival skills, sun safety, basic CPR and pool safety.

Josh the Baby Otter – https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=EP_CS0H4q6w – will be at the event with his lifesaving message: “Learn to Float.”

KIX and Beach 92 will also be on site during the event.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

This event is free of charge and open to the public. Prize sponsors include: The Funky Pelican, Snack Jacks, Oceanside Beach Grill, The Anchor Restaurant, The Island Grill, Martins Restaurant, Bayne's BBQ, The Beachfront Grill, and the Belle Terre Swim Racquet Club.

Swim diapers are required for children who are not potty trained. Others should bring swimsuits and towels and prepare to get wet.

“Water safety is important to us, because it only takes a couple of seconds for a child to drown,” said Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito. “It is up to us, the adults, to make sure we provide our children a safe environment and teach them how to float and swim.”

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