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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Prepare for summer fun at FREE ‘WaterSafe’ event

**April 16, 2019** – Flagler County Fire Rescue 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 2019 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 27, at the Belle Terre Swim & Racquet Club, 73 Patricia Lane, Palm Coast.

“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.”

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, Advent Health, 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\\_CSOH4q6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=EP_CSOH4q6w) – will be at the event with his lifesaving message: “Learn to Float.”

There will also be photo opportunities with a live mermaid and the Chick-Fil-A cow. KIX and Beach 92 will also be on site during the event.

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**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. Sponsors include: Beaver Toyota, Chick-Fil-A, Cline Construction, Houligan's, Pinch A Penny, Speedway Custom Photo Lab, and VyStar Credit Union.

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

“This event is geared toward families with young children,” 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.”

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