

# “Layers of Protection”

by George Young - January 18, 2012

Layers of Protection are a term used and referred to all the time by water safety specialists. It's no secret that layers of protection can save lives. OK, what are the layers of protection??? In my view there is no exact equation. Just a single layer of protection that is compounded with other layers of protection to create a solid safety blanket. So in terms of water safety, many safety layers can provide a huge advantage to insure a safe pool than just a single safety precaution measure.

For example, a fence around an apartment pool is a good single layer of protection. Then put a fence with a self closing door with an adult latch on the fence..... you have two layers of protection. Then at the same apartment pool have a safety pool cover on the pool when it is not being used. WOW, triple layers!! Let's keep going: For the same apartment pool let's surpass the required safety equipment that is required by the local health codes and then even to top that off offer and strongly recommend for all 12 years and older renters participate in an ARC water safety awareness course. OK! I think everyone can see the value of layering your protection for a back yard pool.

Be smart and layer your protection and create a custom safety blanket for your pool.

## *A closer look @ Smith Park Pool's layers of protection:*

The City San Gabriel mandates that a certified lifeguard be on duty at Smith during all SGSG training sessions. FIRST layer of protection. Then you add the fact that Coach Susan and Coach George have been involved in aquatics either as a trainer or supervisor of lifeguards for more than 37 years combined (experience and insight overseeing that every SGSG Swimmer is safe). SECOND layer of protection. Then you throw in the fact that all SGSG Coaches surpass the minimum requirements that the City of San Gabriel have in place for their lifeguards. This is vitally important to insure the City lifeguards and the SGSG Coaches are on the same page and are in-line on the care that may be needed in an emergency situation. THIRD layer of protection. The FORTH layer of protection is the fact that SGSG Coaches certification level surpasses the minimum requirements set forth by USA Swimming. To top it all off, during a normal training session @ Smith for SGSG 1-5 certified lifeguards are in the water training and anywhere from 2-8 lifeguards either

lifeguarding or coaching are on deck during SGSG training session makes SGSG one of the safest team in the US!