

Education a priority for Fire Department

The Fire Department has begun a vigorous campaign to become a greater force in the community for public safety through education.

From June 16 to 28, 30 public service announcements were aired on pool safety and CPR awareness. The PSA's were the result of a partnership between the Fire Department, WESH-TV and United HealthCare of Florida.

With summer just beginning, 1997 has already seen a record number of childhood deaths from pool drowning: 10 since the first of the year, half occurring in May alone. In response, the Fire Department will end its campaign on educating the public on pool safety and CPR by holding a Drowning Prevention Day on June 28 at the Rollins College Field House located on Chase Avenue.

The event will include a two-hour hands-on CPR training course with a certificate of achievement at the end of the course. In addition, participants will discuss ways to prevent child drownings.

"We have seen CPR save countless lives," said Lt. Randall Mells, Public Information Officer for the Fire Department. "We hope that by learning CPR and water safety rules, the number of child drownings will decrease."

The free course will be offered in three sessions: 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. To register, call 834-6583, ext. 206.

The Fire Department hopes

to increase educational programs such as these in the future to decrease the potential for life threatening injuries and accidents.

For more information about public educational opportunities, call Randall Mells at 599-3230.

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