

News Release

Nevada Department of Wildlife

For Immediate Release

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6-year-old girl drowns on Lake Mead

Las Vegas, NV - A six-year-old girl drowned on Lake Mead Saturday when winds pushed the pool float she was sharing with a friend away from the shore.

Nevada Department of Wildlife game wardens received the call at 2:35 pm and were able to arrive on scene only minutes later. They were able to rescue one of the children but were unable to locate the second child. Her body was recovered by divers from Las Vegas Metro later that evening.

NDOW wardens also pulled several good Samaritan swimmers from the water who had attempted to get to the two children.

"It seems harmless, but a pool float is not designed for the lake. The wind on Lake Mead will take it and put a person in danger very quickly," said Warden James Mortimore. "And once the wind picks up, there is little chance of anyone swimming out to retrieve the float, I don't care how strong of a swimmer you are."

The National Park Service says similar deaths happen every year. Their biggest concern with inflatable pool toys and rafts is that they can become uncontrollable in high winds. They suggest leaving the inflatables at home or tying them to the shore while using them. They also encourage everybody to use a life jacket.

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The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) protects, restores and manages fish and wildlife, and promotes fishing, hunting, and boating safety. NDOW's wildlife and habitat conservation efforts are primarily funded by sportsmen's license and conservation fees and a federal surcharge on hunting and fishing gear. Support wildlife and habitat conservation in Nevada by purchasing a hunting, fishing, or combination license. Find us on Facebook, Twitter or visit us at www.ndow.org.

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