

Forever  
15



**Presented**

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Waco Lake  
Project Office



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

**Tragedy on the Water**



# Why Do It?



- Most of our water safety curriculum is for kids ages 5-12.
- Most of our recent fatalities have involved teens
- How do we reach that demographic??



# An Idea Becomes a Reality

- Modeled after Shattered Dreams
- Hard-hitting
- Realistic
- Emotional



# Challenges

- Safety Office
- Office of Council
- School Board
- School Principal
- Multi-Agency Coordination



# Getting the School On Board

- Choosing the school
- Be prepared to “sell” the program
  - Program Guide
  - DVD
  - Media coverage
  - Contact info for previous schools



# Choosing “Actors”

- School official will choose student actors
  - Actors must:
    - Be well behaved
    - Be well liked
    - Be well known
    - Be trustworthy
    - Have parents who are willing to participate in the program



# Getting the Parents on Board

- Parent Meetings (MANDATORY!!)
  - Parents want and NEED details
  - Provide information – keep written materials to a minimum
  - Be prepared to answer A LOT of questions
  - Be accessible to parents



# Planning Meetings

- The first time is the hardest
- 7 planning meetings
- Present it to your emergency responders as good practice for the “real” thing





# Swimming Assessment

- Prevent a disaster!!
- Make it fun for the kids, but use this time to determine who are strong swimmers and who are weak



# Pre-Filming

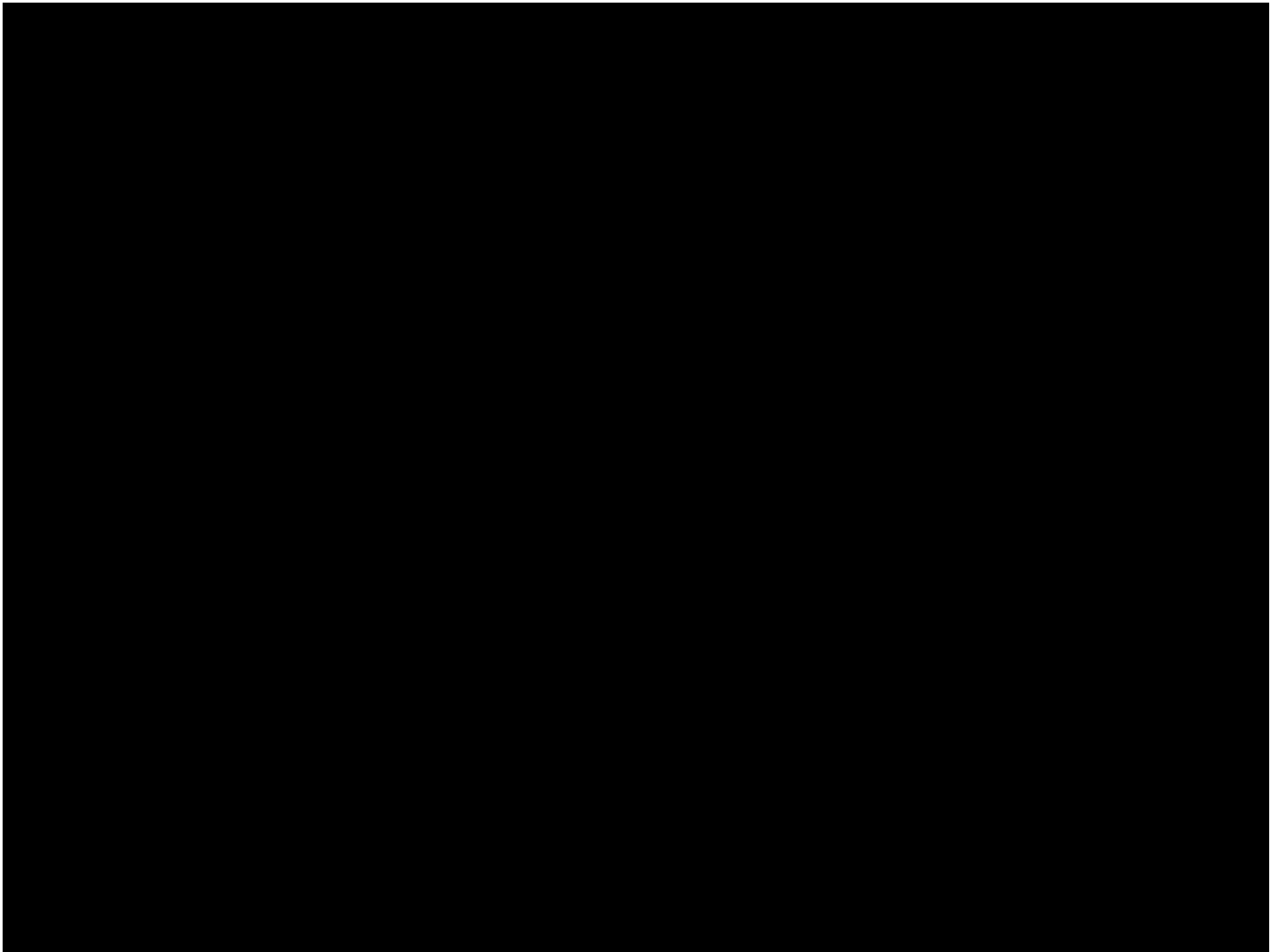
- Done at location event will be held
- Clothing, people, items...etc. must be the same



# Day of the Event

- Student actors not in school
- Student body watches 3-4 minute pre-filmed video at school and hear 9-1-1 call





# Day of the Event



- Scene run just like it was a real drowning
- Keep on a time schedule – don't let it drag
- PA system



# Victim Recovery

- We used divers
- Recovery announced over PA
- JP and Funeral Home
- Very emotional



# Memorial Service

- Speakers
- Take Away Message



# Debriefings

- Student body
- Parents and Student Actors
- Emergency Responders
  - What went right?
  - What went wrong?
  - How to improve future programs





# Materials Available

- Program Guide
- Forever 15 DVD



# Getting the Word Out

- Over 1,300 YouTube hits in the first week
- Over 3,300 views currently
- PSAs
- Billboards
- Posters
  - QR Codes



**HE THOUGHT HE WAS A GOOD SWIMMER, TOO!**

BE SMART...  
BE SAFE.



For more information,  
contact your local  
Army Corps of Engineers or  
The Heart of Texas  
Regional Advisory Council  
at [info@hotrac.org](mailto:info@hotrac.org)  
or 254-202-8740



Scan here to watch the  
Forever 15 video.

# Questions??

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