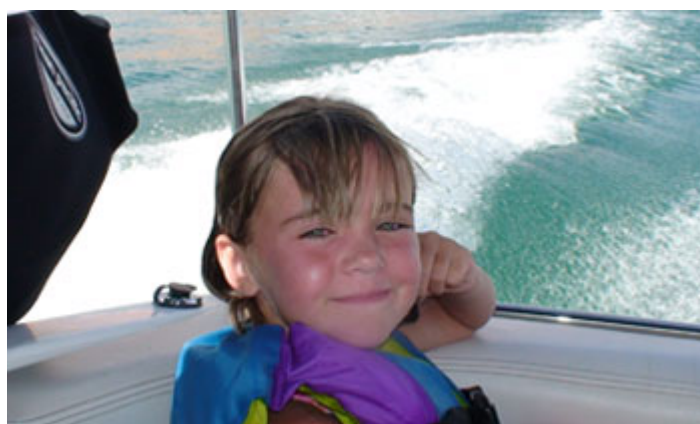


Megan's Story

On July 7, 2007 our daughter, Megan Evans, age 7, died from Carbon Monoxide poisoning behind our friends' boat at Lake Powell.

It was a beautiful, sunny day. Very little wind was blowing. At about 8am, Megan and her friend, Kayleen asked if they could go swimming and play on the beach. "Sure", we said. Megan was a VERY strong swimmer and jumped in the shallow water to join her friend.

After about a half an hour of playing on the beach, Megan and her friend swam around to the back of Kayleen's parent's boat, which had the motor running (with disengaged props) to recharge the batteries. The girls attempted to board the back of the boat, when we heard a screams for help. We all jumped into rescue mode for Kayleen who appeared to have hit her head and was sinking quickly into the water. Everyone focused on Kayleen and trying to revive her. As soon as we realized she was ok, we



asked "Where's Megan?" Some of our friends thought she was upset about her friend's injury and was crying and went on the beach. We immediately began searching...in boats, tents, beaches, everywhere, until we realized she may be in the water. We prayed that she would come over the hill carrying a handful of flowers and shells that she had collected.

About 6 friends entered the water with goggles and masks. After about a half an hour of searching, Megan's 15 yr old cousin announced that he felt something in the water beneath him and began pulling her body from the water. I screamed "NO!" This was the worst nightmare a parent could ever imagine.

Megan was placed on the back of our friends' boat where CPR was started. A call was made for a rescue helicopter to come to our aid. Many boaters began arriving to our beach to see if they could assist. As Megan's dad and I kneeled by her side, screaming and pleading with her to wake up, CPR was never ceased. Finally, two helicopters arrived and Megan was turned over to their care. She was given an adrenaline shot to her heart and they continued with CPR even as she was airlifted to Page Hospital, where they pronounced her dead. I felt horrible thinking that I had allowed her to go in the water without her life vest, even though she was such a strong swimmer. At this point a nurse gave me a hug and told me that she had died very quickly from Carbon Monoxide poisoning and that a life vest wouldn't have helped her. We just couldn't understand this. We thought we knew about Carbon Monoxide.

This kind of death just doesn't make any sense and it is so avoidable. If we had just known MORE about Carbon Monoxide from boats...how much more deadly CO from boats is as compared to cars, and how quickly it can cause death. If we had known this information, we never would have run the engines with anyone behind the boat!