



Lancashire Fire  
and Rescue Service



# COLD WATER KILLS

IT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN IT LOOKS



Scan here for more **water**  
safety advice and resources



# EVERY YEAR PEOPLE DROWN IN LANCASHIRE

As temperatures rise, it's tempting to cool off with a swim in a river, canal, lake or reservoir. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service is regularly called to rescue people who have got into trouble in the water.

## WHAT ARE THE DANGERS?

- ⚠ There is no supervision.
- ⚠ The cold water temperature can claim your life in minutes - even if you are a strong swimmer.
- ⚠ It's difficult to estimate the depth of the water. It may be much deeper or much shallower than expected.
- ⚠ There are often no suitable places to get out of the water due to steep slimy banks or sides.
- ⚠ There is no way of knowing what lies beneath - there could be weeds, pipes, shopping trolleys, sharp metal or broken bottles.
- ⚠ Swimming in open water can lead to a variety of serious illnesses. There may be hidden currents. Flowing water or swimming in the sea can be especially dangerous.
- ⚠ Alcohol and swimming don't mix - perception and capability are both affected by drinking

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE IN DIFFICULTY?

Alert someone, preferably a lifeguard. Dial 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service if you are at a river, canal or reservoir and ask for the Coastguard if you're at sea. Explain your location clearly and describe any landmarks.



## ENJOY THE WATER SAFELY THIS SUMMER

- ✔ Swim somewhere safe, like the swimming baths.
- ✔ Obey the warning signs around reservoirs, lakes, canals, rivers and at the beach.
- ✔ Value your own safety first - jumping into the water to rescue pets or belongings can be highly dangerous.
- ✔ Know what to do in an emergency - ring 999 and explain your location clearly and describe any landmarks.
- ✔ Enjoy organised water sports in a safe environment - with the correct equipment and a qualified instructor.

[www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/watersafety](http://www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/watersafety)