

STAY SAFE NEAR WATER

Whatever time of year it is, remember:

- Take care at the water's edge, it may be slippery and river banks could give way
- The water may be deeper or shallower than you think
- Rivers, lakes and weirs contain strong under currents that cannot be seen
- Always read and follow safety warnings
- Swim somewhere safe like a public swimming pool
- Never swim after drinking alcohol
- Never go near water on your own, if you do get into difficulties your friend will be able to get help

If someone is in difficulty in the water:

- Stay calm, shout for help and dial 999 and ask for the fire service
- Give your location or local landmarks if possible
- Never enter the water yourself



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**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**

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NEAR WATER**

Summer safety

Firefighters often get called to rescue people from water in the summer months – normally because people enter water to cool off. But do you know the risks?

- Even on a hot day, water temperature is often much colder than you realise. It is much harder to swim in cold water, even if you are a strong swimmer
- You don't know what lies beneath the surface. There may be bottles or pieces of sharp metal, or things like weeds and fishing nets which could drag you under
- Open water often carries diseases like Hepatitis, Weils Disease or Typhoid, all of which can make you severely ill or even kill you

South Yorkshire has a large network of canals. These too can pose some specific dangers:

- Lock gates are very heavy and may crush you. They can open and close without warning
- The water may be very shallow, especially near the cill

- You can be dragged down as the water rushes out under the opening sluice gate, or when the water pours through the open paddle in the lock gate

The risks don't always involve public waterways. In the garden:

- Never leave small children unattended near ponds and pools
- Ensure water butts and similar containers are secure and sealed
- Empty paddling pools after use and turn them upside down
- Install a rigid mesh or grille across a pond to create a secure cover

Of course, summer can be a great time to enjoy water sports, but always:

- Wear a life jacket
- Enjoy sports in a safe environment with an instructor and the correct equipment



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Winter safety

Frozen lakes, rivers, canals, weirs, reservoirs or ponds are beautiful places to visit during the winter months but all too often people risk their lives by venturing onto frozen water.

- Don't go out onto frozen water
- Keep pets on leads when near frozen water and resist throwing objects onto the ice for them to retrieve
- Make sure children stay well clear from the water's edge

If you see a person or an animal fall through the ice, do not go onto the ice to attempt a rescue.

- Dial 999 and give your exact location or nearby landmarks

DIAL 999

- Wait for the emergency services, remain calm and offer reassurance to the casualty

