

July 2024

Young people urged to stay safe around open water after latest tragedies

Dear parent/guardian,

In 2023 there was an increase in the number of fatalities in and around water amongst young people, and we have already seen a number of drowning fatalities this year. We must work together to prevent more deaths.


Data from 2023 shows that boys aged 10-19 are particularly at risk of accidental drowning and that 59% of fatalities occurred on inland waters (rivers, lakes, canals etc).

One drowning is too many. We urge you to remind children and young people of our four simple tips to help them stay safe around open water. Knowing these tips can save a life.



Together we can ensure all children in Wales are able to have fun and be safe in and around water.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Cousens

Chair, Water Safety Wales