



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

 bedsfire.gov.uk
 Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
 bedsfirealert.co.uk
   @bedsfire

Water safety

For the attention of Parents and Guardians,

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Bedfordshire Police and the Local Authorities have been contacted by residents across Bedfordshire raising concerns for young people swimming and jumping into outdoor water sites including:

Priory Marina – Bedford
Wixams Lakes – Wixams
Kempston Mill - Kempston
Blue Lagoon – Arlesey
River Ivel - Shefford
Stewartby lake – Forest of Marston Vale
The Old Mill - Sandy
The Riddy – Sandy

There are also concerns that younger children are entering the water whilst being in the care of their teenage brothers and Sisters.

Even the strongest of swimmers can get into trouble in water outdoors and we have particular concern for young people who could be putting themselves and others at risk without knowing the dangers.

Outdoor water can contain many hazards such as entrapments, weeds, rubbish, drains, broken bottles, pollution, under water currents and it can be extremely hard to judge depth meaning that deep water can suddenly catch someone out, but jumping into shallow water could also result in severe injury.

Even on a warm day the temperature in open water can remain very cold, causing cold water shock, a physical reaction which can make it difficult to control breathing, cause panic and make it difficult to swim.

If someone is in trouble in water, CALL 999 ASK for FIRE SERVICE. It is important people call for help rather than entering the water to attempt a rescue as this can often result in emergency services needing to find and rescue more people from the water.

Use lifesaving equipment from the bank such as a throwline, reach pole, lifebelt, tree branch and encourage the person to float on their back.

Over the last year we have had two drowning fatalities in the county that have been aged 18 or under.



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Please talk to your young people and educate them on the dangers of playing in and entering open water.

Please access our website where there is a link to a new water safety educational video

[Safety in and around Open Water | Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service](https://bedsfire.gov.uk)
(bedsfire.gov.uk)

There are also activities that parents can do at home with their young people to educate on water safety and other areas of safety;

[Home | StayWise](#)

[Water Safety Advice | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/learning-from-home/water-safety>

Despite the obvious safety risks, Fire service and Bedfordshire Police have no authority to stop people entering open water, but if you have concerns of safety or anti-social behaviour, we would ask you to report this through to the Police non-emergency number on 101

If someone is in trouble in water and needs help in an emergency, please call 999 and ask for FIRE SERVICE

Kind Regards

Stacey Moore
Community Safety Officer
Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service