

As part of our ongoing commitment to community safety, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service would like to share important water safety advice to help reduce the risk of incidents in and around water.

Open water environments such as rivers, lakes, canals, and coastal areas can present hidden dangers, including cold water shock, strong currents, and uneven or slippery surfaces. Even in warmer weather, water temperatures can remain dangerously low.

We recommend the following key safety precautions:

- **Avoid entering open water wherever possible**, particularly in unsupervised areas.
- **Always supervise children closely** around water.
- **Do not enter water under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**
- **Be aware of sudden changes in depth, currents, and underwater hazards.**
- If you do fall into water unexpectedly, **remember to float on your back and control your breathing** before attempting to self-rescue.
- In an emergency, **call 999 or and ask for the Fire Service or Coastguard, depending on location.**

Further guidance and support can be found by visiting Staywise:

<https://staywise.co.uk/redirect/fire-merseyside>

