

# Water Safety

Float to Live & Respect the Water



# The Facts!



- Every year, in the UK, around **400** people die from drowning as a result of an accident in or around water.
- 1000's of others are left with severe, **life-changing** injuries.
- Search, rescue and emergency services respond to over 100,000 water-related events each year.



That's more  
than one  
death per  
day per year!

# The Facts!

- Some of these deaths and injuries are the result of risky activities such as ‘tombstoning’ and gathering in groups to swim in locks or reservoirs but many are the result of simple accidents.
- Around 50% of people who die never intended to go in the water.



Drowning is the **THIRD** most common cause of death in young people.

**The risk increases significantly from age 15.**



# Time to Think

Is there anything James or his friends could have done **differently** to prevent his death?



If you had witnessed this incident, what could you have done to help?





# Be Aware

Low water temperatures can cause the body to go into **Cold Water Shock** and can claim your life in minutes, even if you are a strong swimmer.

**Float to Live!** Fight the urge to swim hard, instead try to float on the surface until the shock passes.

**Float to Live!**



# Other Dangers

There is no way of knowing what lies **beneath** the water

It's difficult to estimate the **depth** of the water

Reeds and other plant life can get **tangled** around your limbs

**Mud** makes it difficult to walk even if you can stand up

Litter and waste can **trap** your feet as well as cause injury

There may be underwater **machinery** for example sluices

Swimming in open water can expose you to serious **diseases**

There may be **hidden currents**, especially in locks





# Safe to swim?



**Canal & River Trust**

## Sparth Reservoir

Swimming at Sparth reservoir  
Sparth reservoir is an operational reservoir that feeds the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Water is drawn from the sluice and levels can vary greatly from day to day.

The reservoir is not supervised by lifeguards.

Keep yourself safe. In the event of a life threatening emergency dial 999, ask for the Fire Service and quote your location.

Park Gate Lane, Sandhill Cottages, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6NB  
Grid reference: 405621 412545

Please read the safety sign so that you are aware of all the hazards


Produced in collaboration with Friends of Sparth Swimming  
[facebook.com/groups/119437134823180](https://facebook.com/groups/119437134823180)



Where is it safe to swim?



# Any questions?

