

Children will be at great risk over the St Patrick's Day period

30 CHILDREN DROWNED IN TEN YEARS – Constant supervision is key.

Half a million primary school children will not be attending school over the St Patrick's Day period and if they are near water, constant responsible supervision is essential. While children are at home take advantage of the opportunity to teach them how to stay safe near water by using the free resources available at <https://www.teachpaws.ie>

ALCOHOL AND WATER NEVER MIX – Avoid water activities after consuming alcohol.

Water Safety Ireland is appealing to people not to engage in boating, angling or any aquatic activities after consuming alcohol over the St Patrick's Day period. On average, eleven people drown in Ireland every month, one third after drinking alcohol.

COLD SHOCK & HYPOTHERMIA KILLS – Stay away from the water's edge.

The St Patrick's period is a popular time for walks near water however water temperatures are still cold (9 degrees Celsius) and sudden accidental immersion can be fatal due to cold shock and hypothermia. Coastal walkers risk being trapped by incoming tides so avoid walking on sandbanks during low and incoming tides. Inland waterways account for the majority of drownings where the dangers of underwater hazards and currents are magnified due to hypothermia in cold water.

LIFEJACKETS SAVE LIVES – Always wear one on water:

For those of you who will venture afloat please wear a lifejacket and ensure that if it is self inflating that it has been serviced and has a correctly fitting crotch strap to avoid the possibility of slipping out through it in an emergency. Check it daily.

Lifejacket advice: <https://watersafety.ie/boating/>

Hypothermia advice: <https://watersafety.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Hypothermia-Leaflet.pdf>

In an emergency, call 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.

Media Enquiries to:

Water Safety Ireland, The Long Walk, Galway
LoCall 1890-420.202 www.iws.ie; Tel: 091-564400 Fax: 091-564700
Mobile: John Leech: 087-6789600; Roger Sweeney 087-6789601