



Irish Water Safety

**National Water Safety Awareness Award**

For those employed to work in or near water

**Syllabus**



**Irish Water Safety**

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

Irish Water Safety is the statutory and voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.

Tá Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann ina bhord deonach reachtúil a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chothú in Éireann.

## Our focus...

Our focus is on public awareness and education. Tragically, an average of 133 people drown each year in Ireland. We feel that this is simply unacceptable considering that most fatalities are avoidable. We strive to reduce these fatalities by increasing water safety awareness and by changing attitudes and behaviours so that our aquatic environments can be enjoyed with confidence and safety.





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Site Specific may be selected from any of the following sites:

- Beaches
- Quays, jetties, harbours
- Boating
- Rivers
- Estuaries
- Lakes
- Flooding
- Canals
- Power stations
- Water Supply
- Pumping Stations
- Reservoirs
- Sewerage Works
- Bridges

Sites may be generic and not confined to the candidates' normal workplace.





## Specification for the Water Safety Awareness Award (General)

### Aim

The aim of this Award is to enable personnel to have an awareness of the dangers and knowledge of working safely in an aquatic environment.

### Entry Level

There are no prerequisites for entry to the course

**Award Certificate** Validity two years

### Presentation Content

- Drowning Statistics
- General outline of common Hazards associated with aquatic environments including:
  - Beach & Surf
  - Quays, jetties, harbours, bridges
  - Boating
  - Rivers & Estuaries
  - Flooding and fast water
  - Reservoirs & Lakes
  - Controlled water channels and power stations
  - Water Supply Pumping Stations
  - Slurry pits, Sewerage Works
  - Infections, water borne diseases
  - Sun & Hypothermia
- Legal Aspects of Health and Safety
- Personal Safety
- Simple Rescue Techniques and Rescue Equipment
- Personal Flotation Devices

### Minimum Training Hours

The minimum course time for candidates to complete the course is three hours.

### Assessment

The candidate shall complete a multi-choice questionnaire on all aspects of the presentation content to an acceptable standard.

### The Course Tutor

The Water Safety Awareness Award courses will be provided by Irish Water Safety Accredited personnel. The course tutor will provide and correct questionnaire. The course tutor will provide on-going assessment.



## Specification for the Water Safety Awareness Award (General and Pool)

### Aim

The aim of this Award is to enable personnel to have an awareness of the dangers, practical training in working safely and dealing with emergencies while working in an aquatic environment.

### Entry Level

There are no prerequisites for entry to the course.

**Award Certificate Validity two years**

### Presentation Content

- Drowning Statistics
- General outline of common Hazards associated with aquatic environments including:
  - Beach & Surf
  - Quays, jetties, harbours, bridges
  - Boating
  - Rivers & Estuaries
  - Flooding and fast water
  - Reservoirs & Lakes
  - Controlled water channels and power stations
  - Water Supply Pumping Stations
  - Slurry pits, Sewerage Works
  - Infections, water borne diseases
  - Sun & Hypothermia
- Legal Aspects of Health and Safety
- Personal Safety
- Simple Rescue Techniques and Rescue Equipment
- Personal Flotation Devices

### Practical Content

#### On Land

- Basic Life Support (BLS) practice

#### In Pool

- Entries, movement in water, wading,
- Turning from prone to supine and supine to prone
- Simple Rescue Techniques, use of safety equipment
- Personal Flotation Devices practice.
- Assuming HELP and HUDDLE positions

### Minimum Training Hours

The minimum course time for candidates to complete the course is 5 hours.

### Assessment

The candidate subject to continual assessment shall complete practical content to an acceptable standard.

1. BLS
2. Pool

### The Course Tutor

The Water Safety Awareness Award courses will be provided by Irish Water Safety Accredited personnel. The course tutor will provide and correct questionnaire.

The course tutor will provide on-going assessment.



## Specification for the Water Safety Awareness Award (Site Specific)

### Aim

The aim of this Award is to enable personnel to have an awareness of the dangers, practical training in working safely and dealing with emergencies while working in a specific aquatic environment.

### Entry Level

Recommended General Module.

**Award Certificate Validity two years**

### Presentation Content

- The concept of Risk Assessment Hazards and Risks of specific sites
- Risk Mitigation and control measures
- Normal Operating Plan and
- Emergency Action Plan
- Basic Life Support

### Practical Content

#### On Land

- Basic Life Support (BLS) practice

#### In Pool

- Entries, movement in water, wading,
- Turning from prone to supine and supine to prone
- Simple Rescue Techniques, use of safety equipment
- Personal Flotation Devices practice.
- Assuming HELP and HUDDLE positions

### Site Visit

- Recognise specific hazards
- Identify control measures
- Recommend additional control measures that may be required

### Minimum Training Hours

The minimum course time for candidates to complete the course is 5 hours.

### Assessment

The candidate subject to continual assessment shall complete practical content to an acceptable standard.

1. BLS
2. Pool
3. Site Visit

### The Course Tutor

The Water Safety Awareness Award courses will be tutored by Irish Water Safety Accredited personnel.

The course tutor will provide and correct questionnaire.

The course tutor will provide on-going assessment at land, pool and site visit.



## What we do...

Teach swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and basic life support. Courses are provided nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum. Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally.

Arrange conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.

Publish literature to promote water safety and target at-risk groups. We provide publications for all aquatic activities to assist the public adhere to best practices.

Our volunteers carry out Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public. We recommend and check rescue equipment and advice on signage and other necessary facilities to make these areas safer. We also advise and assist Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on all matters relating to water safety.

Beach Lifeguards are trained and tested by our examiners for the Local Authorities, prior to the annual summer season each year.

Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Inshore Rescue Services and the Coast Guard.

Promote marine safety along with other members of the Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee.

National and local media help build public awareness by actively communicating our safety messages to the public.

Press releases target the seasonal hazards at sea, on our inland waterways and other aquatic environments.

Analysis and provision of drowning statistics that enables effective targeting of "at risk" groups in Ireland.

Work with a range of organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide annually.

Organise the Annual National Lifesaving Championships; some of our members then go on to compete in international events each year.

Organise the National Water Safety Awards Ceremony. The "JUST IN TIME" Rescue Award and other awards recognize people's work, providing training and promoting Water Safety in Ireland.

Partners from the private sector sponsor the delivery of messages to key "at risk" groups.

Provide information on the locations of Lifeguarded waterways in Ireland.

Public and private bodies call on us to make submissions on water safety related matters.

Maintain a comprehensive website of water safety advice, publications and courses.

*IWS is registered charity CHY 16289*



## Notes







member



member



member



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[www.iwsmembership.ie](http://www.iwsmembership.ie)

[www.iwsmemberinsurance.com](http://www.iwsmemberinsurance.com)

[www.safetyzone.ie](http://www.safetyzone.ie)

[www.aquaattack.ie](http://www.aquaattack.ie)