WATER SAFETY IRELAND - the statutory, voluntary body and registered charity established to promote water safety and reduce drownings in Ireland.

Our focus is on Public Awareness and Education. Tragically, an average of 118 people drown in Ireland each year, ten every month. 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.

WHAT WE DO:

1. **Education:**

a) An education syllabus that teaches swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and basic life support;

b) Courses are provided nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum in classrooms, pools and open water nationwide;

c) Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally;

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

e) To ensure their skills reach and remain at international standards, trained lifeguards compete in provincial and national Lifesaving Championships and at International level;

f) Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public, in order to make them safer;

g) Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Inshore Rescue Services and administer associated VAT refunds.

h) Water safety training for those working near aquatic environments in the public and private sector.

2. **Promotion:**

a) Research, analysis and publication of drowning statistics that inform policy and enable effective targeting of those at risk of drowning;

b) National and local media to build a public awareness of coastal and inland water safety;

c) Publications, courses, advice and campaigns in print and online that promote water safety and target at-risk groups in all aquatic activities so that the public adheres to best practices;

d) Supporting the work of over 5,000 volunteer members and those volunteering and commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and basic life support training;

e) A National Water Safety Awards Ceremony that includes the "Seiko Just-In-Time" Rescue Award and other awards that recognise volunteerism and partnerships that promote water safety at national and local level.

3. Partnerships:

a) Local Authorities, state agencies, private enterprises and coroners on matters relating to water safety, the provision of Public Rescue Equipment and Lifeguarding locations nationwide;

b) The Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee to promote maritime safety;

c) A range of organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide;

d) Conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.

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www.watersafety.ie; www.ringbuoys.ie; www.teachpaws.ie; www.paws.edco.ie; www.juniorlifeguard.ie; www.safetyzone.ie; www.iwsmembership.ie;