

UK Water Related Fatalities

2006 v2

The figures within this table represent the occurrence of fatalities as a result of drowning and other water related incidents within the geographic limits of the UK search and rescue sector. The figures are a result of collaboration between NWSF members and represent our best efforts at outlining the level of water related fatalities occurring in the UK. These figures are intended to inform debate on matters of water safety.

Activity	Residential	Pool	Inland	Coastal	Sea	Total
<i>Commercial:</i>						
Transport			1	1		2
Fishing			1	9	7	17
Other Occupational Activity			1	2		3
<i>Leisure:</i>						
Swimming		6	21	23		50
Sub Aqua			1	12	3	16
Angling			4	4	1	9
Sailing			2	12	7	21
Powered Boating			3	3		6
Rowing			1		1	2
Canoeing			6	1		7
Other Watersports			2	3		5
Driving			17	6		23
Non Intentional Immersion	7	2	61	29	11	110
Other Intentional Immersion	15		26			41
Total accidental fatalities	22	8	147	105	30	312
<i>Other causes:</i>						
Natural causes				22		22
Deliberate fatality	1		28	83		112
Subject to further enquiry	2	5	183	91		281
Total other fatalities	3	5	211	196	0	415
Total water related fatalities	25	13	358	301	30	727

Notes:

The figures presented in the above table relate to events that have occurred on, in or near to water, totaling 727 cases. In 312 cases we suspect accidental drowning. In 415 cases the cause of death was suspected to be other than accidental drowning. Of these 415 cases; 22 were suspected cases natural causes, 112 was due to suspected deliberate harm and 281 are subject to further enquiry.

Due to the fact that the majority of drowning events are not witnessed, and the reporting and quality assurance differences in the datasets used, we cannot guarantee that these figures are free from double entries. There are 55 cases within this set where we strongly suspect a matching event, however at this time we currently have insufficient evidence to confidently merge the cases. Water related fatalities involving UK citizens abroad, have been excluded from this dataset. A copy of the terms and definitions applied to this table is available from the NWSF website to download.

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