



water safety
Scotland

Press release

28/06/2022

Press Enquiries

Email: pressoffice@rospa.com

Out-of-hours 07785 540 349

WSS spokespeople are available on request

Water Safety Scotland to host Free World Drowning Prevention Day Event

Water Safety Scotland, in collaboration with The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), Scottish Water, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), is hosting a free Water Safety Open Day at the Helix Park/Kelpies in Falkirk to support the second-ever World Drowning Prevention Day on July 25, 2022, between 11am – 3pm.

The theme of this year's World Drowning Prevention Day, facilitated by The World Health Organization (WHO), is to "Do one thing to prevent drowning". At the Water Safety Scotland event, the local communities around Scotland are invited to visit information and activity stands, and watch and participate in various demonstrations. The Helix Park Lagoon will offer opportunities for the public to watch SFRS and Police rescue capabilities, as well as Newfoundland rescue dogs in action and other demonstrations. A fun programme of activities is also included.

Minister for Community Safety Ash Regan said:

"The Scottish Government is pleased to support World Drowning Prevention Day. This past year we have been working closely with Water Safety Scotland and other key partners to take forward a Water Safety Action Plan which will help raise awareness and understanding of water safety issues in Scotland. I would like to thank our partners for their continued efforts and dedication to work together to help ensure that people are able to enjoy Scotland's inland and coastal waters safely and responsibly."

Carlene McAvoy, Secretariat and Founder of Water Safety Scotland, said: *"Supporting World Drowning Prevention Day through this public event is extremely important given the fact that Scotland has a high accidental fatality rate in comparison to its neighbouring nations. This is a devastating statistic, but if we can reach as many people as possible in Scotland with our water safety guidance, we hope to reduce the number of drownings in this country."*

"Our event is underpinned by our key message – the Water Safety Code. We want to provide life-saving information and advice in a fun and interactive way to help people in Scotland have a positive and safe experience in and around water."

World Drowning Prevention Day will also see the UK national launch of the National Water Safety Forum's Respect the Water campaign which complements the Water Safety Code by raising awareness of what to do if you see someone struggling in the water.

The Water Safety Open Day is free and welcome to all, and will be hosted at Helix Park, Falkirk on Monday 25 July 2022 – 11am - 3pm

Notes to editors

- World Drowning Prevention Day was created after the United Nations General Assembly passed a Resolution in 2021 on Global Drowning Prevention ([A/RES/75/273](#)) designating the 25th July as World Drowning Prevention Day.
- Water Safety Scotland was founded by RoSPA in 2014 and is a partnership organisation whose purpose is to influence, coordinate and lead the aims set out in [Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy](#)
- Water Safety Scotland's Water Safety Code can be found here: <https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/information/>
- The Water Safety Open Day has been generously funded by Scottish Water, RoSPA, SFRS and RNLI.