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Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service  [rbfrs.co.uk](http://rbfrs.co.uk)**



**Reference** Wildfire and Water Safety Advice

**Date** 19 July 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am contacting you from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) and we have some important safety advice we would appreciate if you can pass on.

Due to the current dry, hot weather we are experiencing, the risk of fire in the area presently sits at very high and as a result, fires are quick to get out of control and spread with the arid conditions, causing risk to individuals, property and our local wildlife.

We would ask that parents / guardians remind their young people of the dangers associated with fire and the consequences of lighting fires, especially outside in the current conditions where any fire could accidentally get out of hand unintentionally.

With the warm weather, getting into lakes and rivers may look inviting, however the temperature of the water can still remain cold and lead to cold water shock.

Cold water shock can have a dramatic effect on your body, such as causing you to breathe in water, make your muscles weaken, and can even cause your heart to go into abnormal rhythms, ultimately resulting in death. Watch this [short video](#) from the RNLI which explains more about cold water shock.

Additionally there are local areas where undercurrents can pull you under, even if at first sight the water looks calm. As you may be aware from the news there have sadly been tragic deaths of young people recently within Berkshire and so RBFRS is urging parents to talk with their young people about water safety, encouraging them to swim only in designated areas.

For more information on water safety, please see the [RBFRS website](#).

#### **Resources Included**

- RBFRS - Wildfire Information
- Water Safety Advice (Cleveland Fire Brigade)

#### **Additional Links**

- [Water Safety Advice | Royal Life Saving Society UK \( RLSS UK \)](#)
- [Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks \(rnli.org\)](#)
- [Water Safety | Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](#)

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support in helping to keep Berkshire safe.

**Chief Fire Officer - Wayne Bowcock**