

LOWER SECONDARY

AGE: 11-14

INTRODUCTION

DELIVERY



STOP AND THINK



STAY TOGETHER



FLOAT



CALL 999/112

HAZARD SCENARIOS

LEARNING OUTCOME:

1

I am aware of the dangers around different bodies of water and know what to do to keep myself and others safe.

Time: 30 mins | Format: Classroom activity | Maximum participation: 35



Lifeboats



INTRODUCTION

This activity presents four different water hazard scenarios for students to work through. There are multiple choice responses for each and students should identify what they think is the correct behaviour for each. If your school has a voting system facility, you may wish to use it for this task.

RESOURCES REQUIRED

- ✓ Hazard scenarios slides
- ✓ Hazard scenarios worksheet

LOW TECH OPTION

- ✓ Print out of Hazard scenarios slides

DELIVERY

- Divide the group into pairs and work through the scenarios on slides 2–13.
- Students should discuss each response option with their partner and, using the Hazard scenarios worksheet provided, decide which they think is the correct (and safest) behaviour.
- Once all scenarios have been explored, hold a class discussion around the responses. For each scenario, take a head count to see how the students answered, before deciding on the best practice option.
- Students may decide that the best response in some instances is a consolidation of more than one option.

The scenarios featured on the slides are as follows:

SCENARIO 1

- You are walking back to your campsite with your friends on a coastal path you know really well. You have been coming on holiday here for many years with your family. Your friends want to take a route you have explored before but you want to try somewhere else. They refuse to go anywhere new.

Do you...

- A. Go along with the flow, everyone needs to accept that decisions won't always go the way they want
- B. Go off and do your own thing. Forget them if they don't want to try somewhere new
- C. Try to split the group and take one of your friends with you





DELIVERY

SCENARIO 2

- You have taken your younger sister rock pooling on holiday in an area you don't know very well. You have been so focused on what you're doing, you realise that your way back has been cut off by the tide. Your sister cannot swim but you are a good swimmer.

Do you...

- A. Tell her to climb as high as she can and wait while you swim back to get help
- B. Both climb to higher ground and scream and shout and wave your arms to draw attention
- C. Grab your sister and try to swim back with her on your back

SCENARIO 3

- You are bodyboarding with a friend when you get caught up in a rip. You can feel it dragging you out further away from the shore.

Do you...

- A. Let go of your bodyboard and try to swim back to shore. Shouting and waving your arms as you do
- B. Hold on to the board to keep you afloat, let the rip take you further out and then, when you can, swim parallel to the shore until free of the rip and then head for shore
- C. Wave and scream to try to get the attention of a lifeguard



CONTINUED →



DELIVERY

SCENARIO 4

- You are walking home from school along the local canal towpath when you see someone in the water. They have fallen in and are struggling to stay afloat. You are the only person around.

Do you...

- A. Run to the nearest public safety equipment point to bring back a flotation aid
- B. Jump in to help them. You're a good swimmer and are certain you can save them
- C. Call the emergency services and stay with the victim to try to calm them

The official RNLI advice for each scenario is as follows:

Scenario 1 answer:

- A. Staying together as a group is a key part of positive behaviour around water.

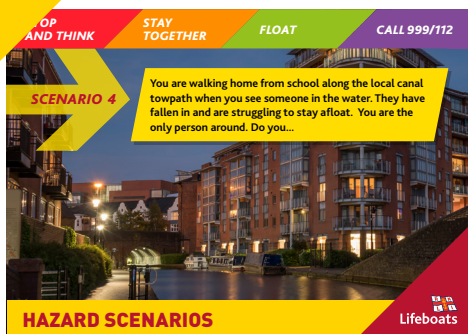
Scenario 2 answer

- B. You should not try to swim back to shore. While you are above water on rocks, you are safe.

Scenario 3 answer:

- B. Never try to swim against a rip, or you'll get exhausted. If you can stand then wade, don't swim. If you have something with you that floats (an inflatable, bodyboard etc) then keep hold of it. If you can, try to swim parallel to the shore until free of the rip and then head for shore. Always raise your hand and shout for help to alert a lifeguard.

CONTINUED →





DELIVERY

Scenario 4 answer:

A and C: you should not enter the water to try to save someone. You risk putting yourself in danger too. Instead, try to find something that floats to throw in for the victim to grab onto until help arrives. If there is nearby public rescue equipment, then run for that. Remember though, that liferings can be heavy so make sure you throw it next to the victim to avoid hurting them. If you have a mobile phone, call the emergency services on 999/112. You can make this call without any mobile credit on your phone or free from a public call box. If you do not have a phone, try to find a passer-by or someone else to call them for you. A shop, café, nearby boat, cyclist etc are all potential helpers. Use your voice and shout to get attention.

Reassure the person in the water that you have called/are calling for help. Canals are often not deep so encourage the person in the water to see if they can touch the bottom. If so, help them to wade to safety.

Remember, if you call the emergency services, give them as much information about your location as you can. If it's an area unfamiliar to you, look around for obvious landmarks they can use to find you.