

# WATER SAFETY

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE



SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
Working together for a safer Scotland

Please use this template to provide information on any Water Safety initiatives you are doing within your area. Please provide as much relevant information as possible.

if you require any assistance or support in completing this template please contact Bernadine Blair, Evaluation, Funding and Initiatives Officer:  
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### LSO AREA

North SDA (Perth & Kinross, Angus and Dundee)

### Author and Contact Details (add a contact email or phone number),

Watch Commander Lewis Duncan, [lewis.duncan@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:lewis.duncan@firescotland.gov.uk) 07824 307622

### What is the Title of the Initiative?

Water Safety/Fire Safety at Backwater and Lintrathen Reservoirs Kirriemuir – Saturday 23 July 2022

### Summary

Improved engagement with the community to highlight Water Safety, Fire Safety particularly with the young people within the area which attracted young people due to good weather/staycations

### Need for Initiative

Due to an increase in water related incidents nationally and due to the potential for fire related incidents within the area both LALO Lewis Duncan (Water Safety) and LALO Gary Wood attended a meeting chaired by Scottish Water where it was recognised that it was important to establish an initiative that would focus on Water Safety and Fire Safety in relation to secondary fires, this would also link in with the SFRS Thematic Action Plan (TAP) and support local communities in addressing their concerns.

All parties involved were aware of the increase in local communities and visitors using the water for open water swimming, paddle boarding and visitors staying within the local area via camping which had resulted in a number of fires being set resulting in damage to bins and grass areas.

## Aims and Objectives

The initiative links in with the SFRS Summer TAP and also links with the SFRS Water Safety messaging and support for the UK National Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016-2026 which aims to reduce the number of accidental drowning by 50% by 2026 and reduce danger amongst the highest risk groups and communities.

In order for the initiative to be successful the following objectives were set:

- Improved engagement, support and provision of advice to young people who are unaware that death by drowning is the third highest accidental cause of death in the UK.
- Develop further partnership working/collaboration including local community groups
- Reduce anti-social behaviours and fire related incidents

## Delivery/Activities

Prior to local school holidays, members of PKAD CAT gave a Water Safety Presentation to all local schools and water safety links were also sent to schools to increase the pupils' awareness of the dangers of open water.

As a result of the initiative and Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS), Police Scotland Mountain Rescue, Tayside Mountain Rescue, Scottish Water and members of the Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council also attended to support the initiative and to engage with the public and offer water safety information as this took place at two identified risk areas Backwater and Lintrathen Reservoirs.

Members of SFRS' Community Action Team, (CAT) also utilised SFRS mountain bikes and this allowed for a wide area to be covered so that families attending the local area and dog walkers using the local paths were given advice on staying safe around water.

**Resources** (What resources does the project require? Does the project rely on any other resources, such as staff from other organisations or premises owned/managed by other organisations? What social media platforms were used to promote it?)

PKAD CAT teams consisting (of Local Area Liaison Officers (LALOs), Community Fire Fighter (CFF) and Community Safety Advocates (CSAs)), Water Safety leaflets, Summer Safety leaflets were also issued. Social Media was also used via Police Scotland Mountain Rescue and Scottish Water - Scottish Water also filmed the event to make a short social media advert. <https://t.co/Yq1yulfKUU>

## Partner Agencies (include contact details)

Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team.  
Tayside Mountain Rescue Team.  
Scottish Water.  
Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council.  
Angus, Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Children and Families Departments (Education).

## Successes and Challenges

One of the key successes through engagement was to show that the SFRS are there to support the local communities and the local Community Council Personnel as this allowed the members of the local community council to work alongside Police Scotland, SFRS and Scottish as a partner in a joint

initiative. Also, the collaborative engagement with a number of partners who all participated in the creation and promotion of a comprehensive video that could be very far reaching.

**Impact/Change/Outcomes** (has anything changed because of the project? What impact has the project had on participants, the wider community and your area? Have you produced anything as a result of the project (i.e. reports, guidance etc.)? Were there any unexpected outcomes?)

The day was planned weeks ahead and was heavily dependent on the weather and despite the bad weather we were able to engage with 20 members of the public this also included children, paddle boarders and dog walkers where we were able to discuss the dangers of cold open water, fire safety and the risks and dangers of not just the water but the landscape of the surrounding area.

Adults	16
Youths	0
Children	4

Water Safety Leaflet	20
Summer safety	20

## Reflections

Due to the number of Water Safety fatalities this year in Scotland, people having 'staycations' and the better weather, it is essential that planning community safety engagement in areas with bodies of water which may attract swimming etc., particularly by young people gathering in these areas is extremely important. Local knowledge by the crews is crucial as is collaboration with local community groups and partners to target those areas which may attract visitors/young people and making them safer.

Personnel report that overall this has been a very worthwhile event from a community safety perspective but also, it provided reassurance to the Community that SFRS were working towards enhancing the safety of everyone within the local area.

**Next steps** Will this project continue? What are the plans for the project in the future and what is needed for this to happen?

Local CAT/LALOs will be working with the local community and partner agencies to plan preventative measures of engagement throughout the summer of 2022.

Water safety and fire safety will be included in all the engagement events that are being planned.

**Additional Information** (include any other relevant information, such as links to other websites or reports)

WC Lewis Duncan completed a formal Evaluation Toolkit therefore an evaluation report will be completed and passed to GC Mike Youngson. This example will be shared with the SFRS Water Safety Group as an example of Good Practice and also shared with all NSDA CAT teams.

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Signed: Watch Commander Lewis Duncan







