

Reservoir Safety

What patterns occur in reservoir deaths? Consider the demography most at risk, their motivation to swim and the risks involved.

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Boy, 15, dragged to death in reservoir

A TEENAGER fought back tears last night as he described how he tried in vain to pull a drowning friend from the reservoir where he had been trying to cool down.

By JAN DISLEY
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Thomas Barton, 15, went swimming with friends as temperatures hit the high 80s.

When he failed to surface, Jordan McDonnell dived in after him while other boys tried to form a chain to pull him out.

But the current was too strong and Thomas's body was recovered hours later.

Jordan, 15, said: "I heard him shouting: 'Help me, help me'.

"I got him round the wrist but he was so heavy he was dragging us both down. I couldn't hold him any longer. He went under and we just couldn't find him again." Emergency services were called to Yarrow Valley Park in Chorley, Lancs, at about 7.40pm on Sunday. Flowers left near the scene included a bunch from his grandparents which read: "To a very special grandson. RIP Thomas. Love you, Nanna and Grandad B."

Thomas was the youngest of four children, and in a statement his family said: "Thomas will be terribly missed by all of us."

Thomas Barton, 15, went swimming with friends as temperatures hit the high 80s

The mother of one of Tom's friends said the boys had all jumped into the water.

"Four of them came back up and he didn't," she added.

"Two of the lads jumped in but they couldn't pull him up. By the time the fire brigade got there the divers had to go in."

Full report: [Click here](#)

UK weather: Man drowns in Lake District reservoir as heatwave-related deaths continue

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Emergency services were called to Thirlmere Reservoir in Keswick, Cumbria, today after two people were seen in distress in the water.



Distress: The Lake District

A man has died after getting into trouble in a reservoir, police said today.

Emergency services were called to Thirlmere Reservoir in Keswick, Cumbria, just after 3pm after a member of the public reported seeing two people in distress in the water.

A woman was rescued from the reservoir and given medical attention at the water's edge, and a search was launched for the man, in his 20s, but his body was later recovered.

It is the latest fatality in the UK during the country's longest heatwave in seven years.

The bodies of teenage friends Chloe Fowler and Toni-Beth Purvis were recovered from the River Wear by police divers yesterday evening.

An air ambulance, two fire crews and a rescue boat from Penrith, together with a fire crew from Keswick, raced to the latest incident this afternoon, according to Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

Thirlmere is a huge reservoir approximately three and a half miles (5.6km) long and one mile (1.6km) wide and is surrounded by 2,000 acres (809 hectares) of forest.

Full report: [Click here](#)

Alton Water swimmer thought to have drowned



A man is believed to have drowned while swimming in a reservoir in Suffolk.

The man, in his 20s, got into difficulty at Alton Water reservoir in Tattingstone at about 20:00 BST. His body was later recovered from the water, police said.

The fire service has issued a warning to take care swimming in open water.

"We are asking people to stay safe following a tragic incident at Alton Water near Ipswich last night," they said.

"The best way to stay safe in or near the water is to take some sensible precautions and prevent accidents from happening," the force said on its [Facebook page](#).

"Water is often a lot colder than you expect and it can impact on your physical capabilities. Just because you can swim well in a warm water pool doesn't mean you'll be able to swim well in cold water."

Suffolk Police said the man's death was currently being treated as unexplained "as is standard procedure".

"At this stage there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances," a spokesman added.