

## MPA Members' Direct

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The trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and industrial sand industries.



### **Stay Safe 2024**

## **Easter Holidays - Public Safety at Active, Non-Active and Disused Quarry Sites**

**As we approach the Easter break and school holidays, MPA is requesting members to be extra vigilant and for quarry operators to review their public safety risk assessments and any site-specific, mitigation measures such as fencing and warning signs.**




With the unusually wet weather experienced across the UK, water levels are higher than normal, currents stronger in waterways, most inland water bodies are still very cold, paths and banks are muddy and unstable, making slips and falls by pedestrians more likely. These conditions increase the potential for members of the public entering quarries to put themselves at risk of falling over faces or into water.

MPA is working with other agencies as part of a generic '[Respect the Water](#)' campaign to raise public awareness of what they should do should they fall into water or see others in trouble. 62% of all accidental drownings in the UK occur at inland water sites, over 40% of accidental drownings

involve people who did not expect to enter the water. Sadly, a large majority of the fatalities involving members of the public in quarries are water related.

Please share these messages with your employees and ideally, their families.

- Explain what one should do if you see someone in trouble in the water, do not enter the water to try and save them, resist this instinct and – **Call, Tell, Throw**.

		
<b>CALL</b> 999 and ask for the right service	<b>TELL</b> them to float on their back	<b>THROW</b> them something that floats

- Recommend what one can do if you are in trouble in the water '**Float to Live**'.

The resources produced by the RNLI explain how floating on your back can dramatically improve your chances of survival should you find yourself in trouble in open water whether at the coast or inland water such as a quarry lake. Sharing this knowledge with your colleagues and their families will help save lives. Follow this link to the [RNLI website](#) where you can download a range of resources that you can use to promote these messages via social media and other formats.

- Tilt your head back with ears submerged.
- Relax and try to control your breathing.
- Move your hands to help you stay afloat.
- Once you are over the initial shock, call for help or swim to safety.
- In an emergency call 999 and, at inland sites, ask for the Fire and Rescue Service and on the coast, ask for the Coastguard.



## MPA Resources and Support

In addition to these national campaigns, MPA has produced a number of resources that can be used to support your community engagement programmes with both schools and others.

Guidelines on managing public safety on quarry sites are also available. Please go to the [Stay Safe page](#) on MPA's website to find out more about what is available.

Contact [elizabeth.clements@mineralproducts.org](mailto:elizabeth.clements@mineralproducts.org) for more information or help on site specific issues

## Example of MPA Postcards

**Every year people get into difficulty in quarry lakes**  
Please only enjoy water based activities where it is safe to do so

**10 reasons why water in active & former quarries can be dangerous**

- The water in quarry lakes can be very deep
- The water in quarry lakes can be very cold
- Sudden, unexpected changes in depth due to shelving
- Steep or crumbling sides making it difficult to exit
- Submerged machinery or rocks that can injure jumpers or swimmers
- Underwater plants, machinery or debris that can trap you
- Currents or powerful underwater pumps
- Dead animals/animal excrement in water causing disease
- Pollution/high alkalinity causing rashes, irritation and stomach problems
- Poisonous algae

**If you get into trouble in a quarry lake 'Float to Live'** – tilt your head back with your ears submerged. Relax and move your hands to stay afloat. Once you have adjusted to the water look for a place to exit – call for help.

**If you see someone in trouble in a quarry lake do not enter the water**

**CALL 999** and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service  
**TELL** them to stay calm and float on their back  
**THROW** them something that floats or find something to reach them and pull them in

**#RESPECT THE WATER**

Visit the following sites for more information and resources  
Respect the Water – [respectthewater.com](http://respectthewater.com)  
Stay Safe – [www.mineralproducts.org/Campaigns/Stay-Safe.aspx](http://www.mineralproducts.org/Campaigns/Stay-Safe.aspx)

**STAY SAFE**

**mpa**  
essential materials  
sustainable solutions

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