



# Bedfordshire

## Fire & Rescue Service

 [bedsfire.gov.uk](https://bedsfire.gov.uk)  
 Southfields Road  
Kempston, Bedford  
MK42 7NR  
 [bedsfirealert.co.uk](https://bedsfirealert.co.uk)  
 @bedsfire

### Water Safety - Quarries

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we are approaching the summer months following a particularly wet winter, I would like to provide some information and support in relation to water safety. Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service along with our partners including the Police and Local Authorities have recently been contacted by residents and business owners who are concerned for the safety of young people who are accessing quarries for leisure activities.

Unfortunately, accidental drownings happen all too frequently and even the strongest swimmers can find themselves in difficulties. There are also concerns for young and vulnerable people who may not be aware of the danger and risks that water poses.

Quarry water is normally far colder than river or sea water, and it can send your body into cold water shock or leave you too exhausted to swim within minutes of jumping in. The water is also often extremely deep, with steep drop offs, and shallow water can change to deep water quickly. Quarry water can also contain hazards such as entrapments, weeds, rubbish, drains, broken bottles and pollution.

The fire service is unable to stop people swimming outside or in open water, but if you have concerns of anti-social behavior, please report this to the Police non-emergency number on 101.

If someone is in trouble in the water and needs help in an emergency, please call 999.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kind Regards

Lauren McEvoy  
Community Safety Officer  
Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

