



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

The importance of water safety

22 May 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is currently embarking on massive safety awareness creation campaign measures around the utilisation of canals, dams and rivers by members of the communities.

This is part of DWS's programmes of commemorating water safety during the months of May and June.

The aim of the water safety campaigns is to raise awareness on how to avoid being a victim of hazards encountered in being involved or being near water.

The critical factor is to be able to learn what to do in case of an emergency.

The campaigns are held under the theme 'Canal Safety is everyone's responsibility' focusing on school pupils and communities that are living within the vicinity of the canals, dams and rivers.

It is important to understand water safety in and around canals, dams and rivers.

Water is tempting, is for example, swimmers, what can seem peaceful, warm and shallow can prove to be too ghastly to be contemplated.

Statistics reveal that the most causes of unnatural deaths are as a result of drownings.

To protect yourself from drowning please observe the following:

- Never let young children go near canals, dams and rivers without adult supervision;
- Never swim or play around the canals, dams and rivers;
- Never walk closely along the edge of a canal or dam;
- Never jump in to rescue anyone if you do not know how to swim, instead, call for help.

Instead:

- Learn how to swim and understand water safety;
- Always have a responsible adult watching children;
- Use good judgment and be aware of canals, dams and rivers when working or are involved in a recreational activity.
- Call for help if someone falls in and can't get out.

End



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