



BRITISHROWING

Safety Alert - Keep clear of weirs

Upstream of the weir, the surface velocity increases as the water below the level of the top of the weir moves up to flow over the weir. As you get closer to the weir it becomes increasingly difficult to escape.

The main danger exists downstream of the weir, this is sometimes called the “Drowning Zone”. The water is aerated. This density of the mix of water and air is much less than that of water, so some objects that are buoyant in water will not float. The strong downward movement of water forces objects to the bottom of the river and can hold them there.

Danger - River Weirs Kill

Water is being pushed against the wall with enough force to pin you to that wall and make it very difficult to drag yourself out.

The water at the bottom of the wall swirls around like in a washing machine. It can drag you down and pin you to the bottom of the river, trapping you.

The bubbles below the weir make it almost impossible to float and swim. You will sink in bubbly water.

The weir can be very slippery

West Midlands Search and Rescue Charity. For water safety advice see www.wmsar.org.uk

There is more information at <https://westmerciasar.org.uk/water-safety-for-kids/>.

Stay clear of weirs and if the flow is strong then stay well clear.

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[This Safety Alert is a safety guidance document. Please read our safety message and disclaimer in RowSafe.](#)