

# Where there is **WATER** there is also **DANGER!**

In Germany, almost 500 people still drown every year! According to experts, 80 % of all drowning cases could be prevented by more caution.

Despite high training figures in swimming and rescue swimming, many awareness-raising actions with support from the media and a high level of dedication by the Hessian water police and other aid organisations, many swimmers and water sports enthusiasts do not know the risks.

This brochure is intended to make swimming in open waters (more) safer.

Udo Gelbe  
Head of the Hesse water police

## This is why swimming in rivers and lakes is so dangerous

### Currents:

- Water moves **cylindrical**.
- The **flow velocity** of the water is **very high** and **torrential**, especially at narrow places and hydraulic structures such as bridges, groyne (gravel or bed of stones hanging into the water), etc.
- **Whirls and maelstroms** in the area of bridge pillars, groyne heads, weirs, locks and harbour entrances reinforce the danger.

### Shipping:

- A moving ship displaces about **2 million litres** of water.
- The **sog sucks** swimmers under the ship.
- Strong breaking wave trigger **panic**.

### Further risks:

- Flow-induced, **dangerous collisions** with ship propellers, vehicles, anchor chains, steel ropes, shoreline stabilisation, etc.
- **Injuries from jumping into shallow water**.
- **Caught** in the strong plant growth under the water surface.
- **Shock reactions** due to cold lenses already possible in 2 m water depth.

## This is what you can do

### Pay particular attention to:

- The **blind spot** of a ship is up to 350 m!
- The **”braking distance“** of a ship is up to 500 m long!
- Ships can swerve **badly!**

### Don't take any risks!

- Never let children into the water without direct and competent supervision!
- Learn children to swim as early as possible!
- Never go into the water under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication!
- Get information about your swimming spots!
- Never underestimate water and shipping!

### And if it does happen?

- Keep calm – first think, then act!
- Save your strength and drift with the current!

### Rescue attempts:

- Consider of your own strength and abilities!
- Observe water conditions (current, shipping)!
- Throw or hand over a life ring or other rescue equipment to the affected person.

For **EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
dial **110** or **112**

## Swimming and bathing in open

### waters are here forbidden

**Basically** within waterski and motorcycle (Jet-Ski) routes.

**In the Rhine, among other things**, in the range from 100 metres above to 50 metres below, **in the other waters** in the range of 100 metres above and below from:

- Harbour entrances
- Transshipment Points
- Shipping pierce and mooring
- Bridges, weirs, locks and ferry docs
- Old-rhine estuary

Further information on the bathing and no-bathing zones can be obtained from the water police.

### Never swim ...

- to signs of navigation!
- to moving ships!
- into the course of moving vehicles!



### Your local water police departments

#### Wasserschutzpolizeistation Wiesbaden

Maaraue  
55252 Mainz-Kastel  
Tel.: 06134 / 55 66 0  
Fax: 06134 / 55 66 40  
E-Mail: WSPST.Wiesbaden.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

#### Wasserschutzpolizeistation Rüdeshheim

Am Hafen  
65385 Rüdeshheim  
Tel.: 06722 / 40 36 0  
Fax: 06722 / 40 36 15  
E-Mail: WSPST.Ruedesheim.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

#### Wasserschutzpolizeistation Frankfurt am Main

Lindleystraße 14  
60314 Frankfurt  
Tel.: 069 / 94 34 59 0  
Fax: 069 / 94 34 59 50  
E-Mail: WSPST.Frankfurt.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

#### Wasserschutzpolizeistation Gernsheim

Rheinstraße 30  
64579 Gernsheim  
Tel.: 06258 / 93 40 0  
Fax: 06258 / 93 40 16  
E-Mail: WSPSt.Gernsheim.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

#### Wasserschutzpolizeiposten Waldeck

Ederseerandstraße 6  
34513 Waldeck  
Tel.: 05623 / 54 37  
Fax: 05623 / 54 45  
E-Mail: WSPPo.Waldeck.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

#### Wasserschutzpolizeiposten Kassel

Am Hafen 15  
34125 Kassel  
Tel.: 0561 / 20 76 94 4  
Fax: 0561 / 20 76 94 5  
E-Mail: WSPPo.Kassel.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

#### Wasserschutzpolizeiposten Weilburg

An der Backstania 3  
35781 Weilburg  
Tel.: 06471 / 93 86 60  
Fax: 06471 / 93 86 69  
E-Mail: WSPPo.Weilburg.HBPP@polizei.hessen.de

Hessian Riot Headquarters  
Water Police Department



## Risks of swimming in open waters

The water police in Hesse  
informs and clarifies

