Open Water Safety

Open water is a term used to describe bodies of water like lakes, oceans, ponds, rivers, and streams. These places can provide lots of summer fun when their unique safety guidelines are followed.

Only allow strong swimmers to swim in open water - swimming in open water requires more skills than swimming in a pool

Do not dive into open water

Obey posted warning signs

Avoid rock hopping - stream polished rocks can be slippery even if they appear dry

Watch the weather - thunderstorms and strong winds are more dangerous around open water

Face the water when playing in or enjoying the surf

Use U.S Coast Guard-approved life jackets

Choose swimming areas carefully

Be aware of the tides

Swim parallel to the shore, if caught in a rip tide

Don't go in the water after someone in trouble - call for help and use available rescue devices from shore

Hidden Hazards of Open Water

dangerous currents   sudden drop offs

deep water   cold temperatures

rocks & vegetation   limited visibility

FIRE SAFE
South Carolina
A COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM