



## Open Water Safety Tips

- Never swim in creeks and streams that are unfamiliar.
- Never go in the water after drinking alcohol.
- Know the water and weather conditions before getting in the water.
- Always enter shallow water feet first.
- Rope swings are dangerous; rocks and shallow spots can cause drowning and even death.
- Wear a US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device if you are an inexperienced swimmer.
- Know your swimming limits and stay within them.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Never swim alone.
- Never swim after dark.
- Restrict activities to designated swimming areas.
- Watch for dangerous currents.
- Do not swim or boat during a thunderstorm.
- Remember that weather conditions can change quickly.
- Make sure the water is unpolluted.
- Remember that open water usually has limited visibility.
- Be sure rafts and docks are in good condition, and always look before jumping off a dock to be sure you won't be landing on someone.
- Never dive into an open body of water such as a creek, river or lake.
- If someone is in trouble in the water, call for help and throw something that floats to the victim. A child should never enter the water to try and save someone.

### Drainage Ditches:

They are for storm water run-off only and are not places for swimming or playing in the water. After heavy rains, they can turn into fast moving rivers that can easily take a life. Even the strongest swimmer is no match for currents in a swollen ditch or stream. Debris in a ditch can add to the danger during a storm.

**Information compliments of the Middletown Township Fire Marshal's Office. For questions about this information contact Fire Marshal Jim McGuire at 215-750-3800 ext. 121 or by [email](#).**