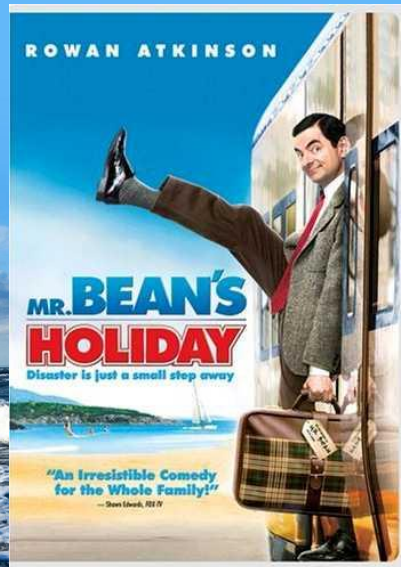
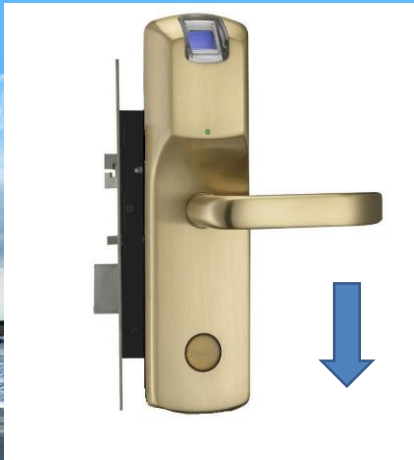


Foreign Holiday Drowning Deaths

THE
Lifesaving
FOUNDATION
SAVING LIVES FROM DROWNING

John Connolly









The most dangerous assumption

Things are the same here as at home





Dangerous Assumptions 1

- Being able to swim protects you from drowning
- He is wearing a wet suit so he cannot drown
- She is wearing a lifejacket so she cannot drown
- There is a trained lifeguard on duty
- There is a diving board so the water must be deep enough to dive safely



Dangerous Assumptions 2

- His older brother is minding him
- It is safe to leave her by herself in the pool
- It is OK to drink alcohol while supervising children
- There are laws that make water sports safe



Holiday Possibilities

- Tourists are 15 times more likely to drown than locals
- Non-fatal injuries are thought to be 10 times those fatal
- Children under 15 years are likely to drown in a pool
- Individuals over 15 years are likely to drown in open water
- A good number of deaths occur within the first 24 hours



Holiday Facts

- There are no EU wide sports equipment safety laws
- Young adults who drown are often not missed for hours
- Drinking alcohol invalidates your holiday insurance
- Anyone can wear a lifeguard uniform



RoSPA

'Individual countries have their own legislation, beach regulations, standards and guidance, but these are not consistent and are often only enforced in the aftermath of an accident.'

475 British tourists drowned between 2000 and 2005, an average of 95 deaths annually.



News Report 2010

July 16, 2010 (Bloomberg) -- Around 600 British nationals are rescued from drowning in Australia every year, the U.K.'s Foreign & Commonwealth Office said today.

Many of the 600 rescued from drowning in Australia were found to have been drinking alcohol, according to the report, which catalogs a wide range of incidents and offers advice on how to avoid trouble.



United States of America

Drowning is the cause of 15% of injury deaths to US citizens travelling abroad.

There were 50 plus deaths due to head injuries and drowning while whitewater rafting in the USA in 2006, many of whom were tourists.



Thailand

RESCUES

Phuket Lifeguard Club statistics from April 2010 to February 2011 reveal that there were 1350 rescues of which 1064 (79%) were visitors and 286 (21%) Thais.





Checking a Pool

Get a global view of the pool

- look for notices and lifeguards
- Look at the people using the pool – orderly or disorderly
- Use the people in the pool to visually check the depths and gradients
- Look into the pool – water clarity / underwater seating



Comment from a British father whose son suffered serious brain damage in a pool

« If there had been adequate supervision, lifesaving equipment or clear signs the accident might not have happened. My son was there in the water. I just looked away for a second and he was gone. It happens that quickly and your family's life is changed forever. «



Checking a Beach

Get a global view of the beach

- look for notices and lifeguards
- Look at the people using the beach – orderly or disorderly
- Use the people in the water to visually check the depths and gradients
- Is it a surf beach
- Is there a rip current



Surf Awareness



Rip Currents



Australia

Between 5% - 10% of non-boating drownings in Australia occur among international tourists and the majority of these deaths occur in the ocean.



People

- Do the lifeguards act like lifeguards you are familiar with?
- Talk to a lifeguard
- Is the person supervising your children going to drink alcohol?
- Do you understand the concept of touch supervision



Comment from an Irish mother who successfully rescued her son from a rip current

' When he woke up in hospital he said
'Mum, I was calling for you but you didn't come.'
 I said 'I was coming for you love'
 but I saw in his eyes that he didn't believe me
 because he was unconscious when I caught him.
 I have nightmares about that. '



Equipment

Get a global view of the ride

- Does the operator act like he cares for the safety of his customers?
- Is he working alone? Is there an on-water rescuer?
- Does his equipment look cared for?
- Is the operation orderly or disorderly?
- Are the lifejackets of good quality?



Holiday Which 2006

‘Watersports operators are flouting basic rules on safety putting holidaymakers lives at risk.’



KEY QUESTIONS

- **Am I confident that my children would be safe?**
- **Am I confident that I would be safe?**





Tourists may not receive the level of trained help available at home

The Lifesaving FOUNDATION
SAVING LIVES FROM DROWNING

Water Safety on Holiday

BE SAFE
TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK IT OUT

Holiday Water Safety
Address in Down Under

www.lifesavingfoundation.ie

The graphic features a central circular diagram with the text 'BE SAFE TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK IT OUT' and 'Holiday Water Safety Address in Down Under'. The diagram is surrounded by various water-related icons: a swimmer, a person on a surfboard, a person on a beach, a person on a boat, a person on a water slide, and a sailboat. The background is a blue sky and ocean waves. A small copyright notice '© TemplatesWise.com' is visible in the bottom right corner.

www.lifesavingfoundation.ie

