



Group Setup & Unit Information



Saving lives on, near and around water

About Us

Open Water Rescue (OWR) are members of and are affiliated to the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK)

Our objectives are to provide safety cover at open water events and deliver drowning prevention education to the public by providing information and training in; lifesaving, life support, water safety, resuscitation and first aid.

Open Water Rescue, has been serving the Scottish Community since 2014. We are a voluntary Water Rescue unit based in Glasgow; our primary focus is water search & rescue, flooding and water based activities. The volunteers also recognised a need in Scotland for more organised and professional rescue services at open water swimming, triathlons, water sports and community events. Operating as an affiliated Royal Life Saving Society UK Unit, this group was formed as a not for profit voluntary group.





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How we operate

We are governed by a formal constitution, safeguarding policy, code of conduct and operate an executive committee which oversees and approves spend, acquisitions, fund raising and formal contact with other governing bodies and professional (blue light) services. All our volunteers go through the Disclosure Scotland (PVG) check. We operate across Scotland

Open Water Rescue work in partnership with Scottish Swimming; providing safety cover and consultancy. This consultancy consists of detailed event safety planning, advice on training requirements, identification of risks and mitigation steps, post event de-brief sessions and attendance at Scottish Swimming committee meetings. We also provide an end of season report which includes a lessons learned section for continuous improvement.

In addition, we:

- offer a free safety planning consultancy service to event organisers as we feel this comes under the general remit of 'drowning prevention'.
- provide safety cover for local authorities (such as Falkirk Community Trust), other non-profit / charity groups and commercial firms (such as Nova International).
- attend community engagement events (such as emergency services show) and are currently discussing how we can expand the community engagement activities we offer as a group.

We strive to build relationships and partnerships with governing bodies in the first instance, which can then lead onto discussions with associated groups.



For more information please visit our website, twitter and facebook pages

www.openwaterrescue.co.uk

Facebook: Open Water Rescue

Twitter: @Water_Rescue



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Our Team

All our volunteers give their time freely (with no remuneration).

Each operational volunteer must go through the PVG process.

Key qualifications / training include:

RYA safety boat	Open Water Lifeguard	Water Safety Awareness
RYA-2	NPLQ	Casualty Manual Handling
RYA-1	Bronze Medallion	manual boat handling
life support 3	RYA – Marine Radio SRC	rope work
AED	Radio Communication	lifeline scotland - Resilience for responders
first aid at work	Rope Throwing	
emergency first aid	Boat Awareness	lifeline scotland – supporting your colleagues



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Training

Our volunteers follow a rigorous training plan, which (along with the experience gained attending operational activities) enables progression through the groups internal structure.

We have the capability, skills and experience to carry out the majority of required training sessions in-house for volunteers, this includes (but is not limited to)

life support 3	open water lifeguard	non-motorised boat handling
emergency first aid	rope throwing courses	search techniques
first aid at work	risk awareness	rope work
AED	boat familiarity sessions	radio communications
community instructor	casualty recovery	fire awareness

There are other external courses which are required for group operation, such as for boat driving (RYA Safety Boat, RYA 2)



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