

Be Safe

Around Rivers and Canals

As the weather warms up, people think of spending more time near the water. Remembering water safety is especially important in or near rivers and canals.

Read the safety facts and information below and use the **bolded** words to fill in the blanks on the "Path of the River" drawing on the back of this page.

Rivers are **COLD**. Their water comes from mountain **snow**, ice and **rain** that travels through **streams**, **brooks**, lakes and other rivers. The cold water can cause your muscles and brain to slow down if you are in it. This condition is called hypothermia.

Rivers have strong, fast currents. Water moving quickly is very strong and can sweep you downstream. Watch out where the river **meanders** or bends, these areas may have very choppy dangerous water.

Rivers carry fallen trees and broken limbs which can hurt you, or catch and tangle your legs under the water.

Canals carry water to fields for **irrigation**. The water in **canals** moves very quickly and there are undertows (water currents) that hide beneath the surface and can pull you down.

If you, your family or friends are on, in or near a river, wear life jackets and watch each other carefully. Be aware of the safety reminders listed above. No one should enter the water alone.



The Path of a River

Look at the drawing below and fill in the boxes using the safety reminders on the other side of this page.

snow
rain
streams
brooks
meanders
rivers
irrigation
canals

