

Total Life Saving Service Plan

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Summary

There are 4 factors that could lead to a drowning.

This is known as the drowning chain and is summarised as follows:

- (1) Ignorance, disregard or misjudgement of, or, unprepared for the danger,
- (2) Uninformed, unexpected or unrestricted access to the hazard,
- (3) Lack of supervision or surveillance,
- (4) An inability to cope once in difficulty,

A 'preventable drowning' is therefore a drowning which could be avoided if the appropriate preventative action was in place to 'break' the drowning chain described above.

We must look at strategies to address all 4 factors if we want to reduce drowning - not just to provide additional surveillance.

A Total Life Saving Service Plan

The International Lifesaving Federation (ILS) Rescue Committee has addressed the above issues by developing a Total Life Saving Service Plan.

This helps us identify the gaps, and also enables priorities to be set when addressing the strategies that we need to put in place to address each of the 4 aspects of the drowning chain. The strategies can be grouped as follows:

- (1) Education and information
- (2) Denial of access and or provision of warnings
- (3) Provision of supervision, and
- (4) Acquisition of survival skills

The ILS Rescue Committee has established a list of the different programs that individual member organisations have developed to address each of these 4 areas.

This paper outlines the work done to date and calls for comment prior to formally presenting this information to the ILS Lifesaving Commission and the ILS Board of Directors.

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the factors that could lead to a drowning
2. To review options that various organisations have adopted to address aspects of the drowning chain
3. To share learning and to contribute ideas to assist in the prevention of drowning

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