

 West Mercia POLICE		POLICY
Security Classification	OFFICIAL	
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act 2000	Yes	

POLICY TITLE	Water Safety Equipment
REFERENCE NUMBER	WMP169
Version	1.0

POLICY OWNERSHIP	
DIRECTORATE	LOCAL POLICING
BUSINESS AREA	TERRITORIAL POLICING

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE	July 2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	July 2024
RISK RATING	LOW
EQUALITY ANALYSIS	LOW

West Mercia Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy.
Please e-mail contactus@westmerciam.pnn.police.uk

1.0 POLICY OUTLINE

This policy explains how West Mercia Police will ensure the correct distribution and audit mechanisms are in place for Water Safety Kit across the force.

All policing areas within West Mercia have considerable bodies of water and all LPAs are prone to significant flooding. Water safety kits were first introduced in 2006 to each of the five policing areas and are currently distributed across these areas.

This policy is intended to provide guidance to single points of contact (SPOC's) and LPA's who are responsible for water safety kits.

Each LPA will have a SPOC responsible for audit, maintenance and distribution of water safety kits who will be supported by business support.

2.0 PURPOSE OF POLICY

This policy seeks to ensure that West Mercia Police maintain consistency, appropriate distribution and efficient maintenance

3.0 IMPLICATIONS of the POLICY

The effective management of this policy and associated procedure will support the delivery of effective policing response to water based incidents.

This policy and associated procedure supports the following

- Force Risk Assessment 17 – Working near water
- 60 seconds of organisational learning – Entering water
- Staff who have access to water safety kits have the relevant training. Training is conducted as part of Officer Safety Training and follows the College of Policing curriculum.
- The policy and procedure aim to provide a better method of recording the data around water safety kits to maintain consistency, appropriate distribution and efficient maintenance.
- Good management and auditing of police water safety kits will have a positive effect on financial implications with maintenance costs of kits.

Failure to comply with the policy could result in impact on:

- Personal
Risk of harm to individuals if operational water safety kit is not available or invalid.
- Reputation
Loss of reputation and public confidence in the police

- Operational
Inability to effectively respond to water based incidents

4.0 PROCEDURE

A procedure is available on a separate document

5.0 CONSULTATION

<i>Chief Officer/ Business Lead Consulted</i>	<i>Date Consulted</i>
ACC Jones/ Ch Supt Paul Moxley	April 2021

This procedure document associated to this policy has been/will be submitted to the following departments for consultation:

Force Legal Department
Learning and Development
Health and Safety
Critical Friends group
JNCC Exec Board

6.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

The history and rationale for change to policy will be recorded using the chart below:

Date	Author / Reviewer	Amendment(s) & Rationale	Date of Approval / Adoption
Mar 2021	CI Loxley-Clark	New Policy	JNCC meeting 13/07/2021

7.0 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Equality Analysis (EA), Health & Safety Assessment (HAS) and Risk Assessment (RA) associated with this document are available on request.

8.0 MONITORING / EVALUATION

The monitoring and review of this policy is the responsibility of the policy owner.