

SWIMMING IN ALTOONA WATER AUTHORITY RESERVOIRS IS NOT ALLOWED!!!



The Altoona Water Authority (AWA) would like to remind everyone that swimming in AWA owned reservoirs is illegal and considered trespassing. State and Municipal police officers and AWA personnel regularly patrol the various reservoir areas. Many concerned citizens also report illegal swimming activity. The AWA is warning violators that they can and will be prosecuted.

Listed below are just some of the safety concerns that accompany swimming in reservoirs:

- Reservoirs were never designed for swimming and are unsafe. They may contain hidden rocks, fallen trees and other debris.
- It can be deep. You cannot tell how deep the water is and there are often sudden drops which you cannot see.
- Water visibility is poor.
- There may be hidden currents. These may be from our pipes which you cannot see or hear but will affect your ability to swim. Intake towers can cause treacherous underwater currents. If a swimmer is caught in an intake tower current, they will drown before help can arrive.
- It may be difficult to get out. The sides of reservoirs are steep in places, making it difficult to climb out. There is often silt or mud on the bottom created when the levels reduce.
- It is always very cold. Cold water can take your breath away, which is the body's natural reaction, and can lead to panic and drowning. Cold can also make your arms and legs numb which means you can't control them and can't swim. It can lead to hypothermia - serious reduction in your body temperature - which can cause heart failure

Also, most AWA reservoirs are in isolated places with no cell phone service. No matter how quickly you call for help, assuming you can call, it may be too late to rescue anyone in trouble.

Finally, please remember that when people enter the water, not only are they risking their own lives but they are also risking the lives of people who may try to help and members of the emergency services who respond to the incident.