

In an emergency
phone 112 or 110!

Contact addresses of the River Police Stations

- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation Gernersheim**
Alte Schiffbrückenstraße 1
76726 Gernersheim
Telephone: 07274 9467-0
Mail: ppelt.wsp.gr@polizei.rlp.de
- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation Ludwigshafen**
Hafenstraße 19
67061 Ludwigshafen
Telephone: 0621 963-2900
Mail: ppelt.wsp.lu@polizei.rlp.de
- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation Mainz**
Rheinallee 104
55120 Mainz
Telephone: 06131 65-8050
Telephone: 06721 905-500 (substation Bingen)
Mail: ppelt.wsp.mz@polizei.rlp.de
- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation St. Goar**
Am Hafen 8
56329 St. Goar
Telephone: 06741 9204-0
Mail: ppelt.wsp.sg@polizei.rlp.de
- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation Koblenz**
Emser Straße 21
56076 Koblenz
Telephone: 0261 97286-0
Mail: ppelt.wsp.ko@polizei.rlp.de
- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation Andernach**
Hafenstraße 15
56626 Andernach
Telephone: 02632 94795-0
Mail: ppelt.wsp.an@polizei.rlp.de
- **Wasserschutzpolizeistation Trier**
Pacelliufer 15
54290 Trier
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Every year hundreds of people in Germany drown

Many drownings could be avoided through prudent behaviour.

This flyer is designed to make you aware of the dangers of swimming in rivers and can contribute to your safety.

The Rhineland-Palatinate River Police



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Rheinland-Pfalz
POLIZEIPRÄSIDIUM EINSATZ,
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Swimming in rivers: dangers and your behaviour



Take care to pay attention to swimming bans

Swimming is banned 100m above and 50m below

- ...a harbour entrance,
- ...a trans-shipment centre,
- ...a ship dock area,
- ...a weir, lock or ferry terminals and
- ...the entrance to the Old Rhine.

What makes swimming in ski-lanes so dangerous? Unpredictable currents!

- Even an ostensibly placid river has a current that moves surprisingly quickly.
- Even good swimmers STRUGGLE to swim against the current!
- The water increases its speed close to bridges, hurdles and other such water obstacles.
- Dangerous whirlpools, eddies and other moving water can develop in many other places, e.g. around bridge pillars, hurdles, groynes, weirs and entrances and exits to harbours.

Avoid all risks

- You should basically only ever swim at beaches with lifeguards!
- Never enter the water if you are under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication!
- Never leave your children unsupervised!
- Stay close to the edge and never swim in a shipping lane!
- Never jump into unknown water!
- Never underestimate potential dangers in water and never overestimate your own strength!
- Note: Swimming assistance is NO insurance against drowning!

Read all the information available relating to local bans and restrictions, e.g.

- Swimming and bathing are forbidden in many city areas.
- Where there are weirs and electricity-generating devices along the Mosel, it is necessary to keep a 300m minimum distance.

Ship rides

- Travelling ships can cause huge suction vacuums and waves.
- Ships have a so-called "blind spot" of up to 350m. Captains are not able to see in this area if anybody is in front of them!
- Remember: Ships do NOT have brakes!

What should you pay attention to in an emergency?

- Remain calm! And think about how to act!
- Never swim against the current! Let yourself be taken by the current to the banks of the river! That saves energy!
- Let others know that you need help! Make all the others aware that you are in difficulty by calling out or waving!

NEVER swim:

- ...in the line of a moving boat!
- ...around moving boats!
- ...approaching ship markings or drums!
- ...in water-skiing lanes!

Further dangers:

- Injuries often occur when people jump into shallow water;
- Collisions with floating logs, jetties etc.;
- Getting caught up in seaweed and plants;
- Cramp and shock reactions are often caused by jumping into cold water.

Rescue attempts

- Call the emergency number 112 or 110!
- Do NOT put yourself in danger!
- Think about your own strength and abilities as well as the locality!