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Drowning girl saved by computer

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A computer-aided drowning detection system has helped lifeguards rescue a young girl in a North Wales pool.

The Poseidon system installed in the Bangor swimming pool alerted lifeguards that a girl was in trouble and less than 40 seconds later she was out of the water receiving resuscitation.



The ten-year-old girl, from Lancashire, was holidaying in the area and had jumped into the deep end of the pool.

She appeared to suffer a blackout and after only three seconds the cameras spotted she was not moving and the lifeguard was alerted.

The incident could have been fatal or resulted in the girl suffering brain damage had there been a delay of two minutes before she was taken out of the water.

Poseidon monitors the pool with 12 cameras, above and underwater, and motion sensors check if a swimmer is moving or not and sends a message to lifeguards via a pager giving the precise location.

The system is designed to act as a third eye for lifeguards.

Francois Marmion, general manager of Vision IQ, the company which developed Poseidon, said: "It is virtually impossible for lifeguards to see everything that is happening in the pool all of the time, given the warm, noisy and crowded environment in which they typically work".

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