

Drowning girl is saved - by a computer

Dean Kirby



STILL: A lifeguard dives in after the computer alarm.



SAVED: The lifeguard grabs the girl from the pool bottom.



AIR: The pair reach the surface - with a computer to thank.

Click below to watch the dramatic rescue video.

Should all public pools be given the Poseidon machine? Have your say.

A GIRL of 10 has been saved from drowning - by a computer.

The unconscious youngster from Rochdale was plucked from the bottom of a 12ft-deep swimming pool by a lifeguard after the machine told him she was about to die.

She is believed to be the first person in Britain to be saved by the £65,000 Poseidon system, which was installed at the pool in Bangor, North Wales, in March.

The computer uses 12 cameras above and within the pool to detect in seconds whether a swimmer has stopped moving. It spots danger and sends a pager message to lifeguards.

Holiday

Images of the girl, who was on holiday with a charitable trust, were beamed to the computer's main centre in Paris, where they have been analysed to see how she plunged to the bottom. The rescue, seen on computer images here, took less than 40 seconds.

Poseidon is fitted in more than 120 swimming pools around the world. The girl was with a large group at the pool, thought to be one of the deepest in Wales and the first with the Poseidon system.

The cameras spotted she was not moving just three seconds after she jumped into the deep end. A lifeguard then jumped in and pulled her from the water.

She was revived and taken to a local hospital, where she made a full recovery.

Effective

Rhys Parri, head of Gwynedd council's lifelong learning service, said: "By following the council's emergency operating procedures, the swimming pool staff were able to reach the individual as soon as was possible.

"Thanks to a combination of the highly professional and effective response of council staff and the computer-aided Poseidon detection system, what could have been a far more serious incident was avoided."