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## Council IT System Saves Drowning Girl

By eGov monitor Newsdesk

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### Surveillance system springs into action at local authority pool

A young girl has been saved from drowning in a North Wales swimming pool after a council IT system alerted lifeguards.

The teenager was at the 12-foot deep end at the Bangor pool when she suddenly sunk to the bottom, apparently having suffered a blackout.

As the girl lay unconscious for three seconds, a computer-aided drowning detection system, linked to underwater cameras, sensed she was in danger and raised the alarm.

The £65,000 system, called Poseidon, sent her exact location directly to the pager of the lifeguard on duty. Less than 40 seconds later the girl was pulled out of the water and resuscitated. She is said to have recovered in hospital.

[View actual footage of the rescue here](#) (Windows Media file: 1.44MB - right-click the link to save file)

The incident, which took place on 24 August, is believed to be the first such rescue of its kind in the UK.

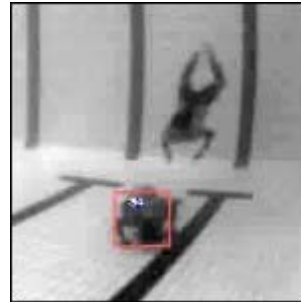
Gwynned Council decided to install Poseidon in March 2003 as an additional safety measure at the public baths, which is one of the deepest swimming pools in Wales.

Vision IQ, who developed the product, says the system has prevented two other drownings in France and Germany.




The system consists of a network of cameras placed in and around the pool area, connected to a PC. The computer runs software that analyses images and triggers a pager alert if someone is thought to be in danger.

"Health organizations worldwide document hundreds of drownings and near drownings every year, many in pools staffed with professional, certified lifeguards", said Vision IQ's general manager François Marmion. "It is virtually impossible for lifeguards to see everything that is happening in the pool all of the time."

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