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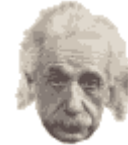
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## Automated Pool System Saves Swimmer

Posted by [ScuttleMonkey](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:26PM

from the [watchful-eyes-for-something-besides-privacy-invasion](#) dept.  
 An anonymous reader writes "*An automated swimmer tracking system installed in a pool in Wales has saved a young girl who just collapsed and sank to the bottom, by paging lifeguards when it could not detect her moving.*" This is the first time a UK swimmer has been saved by the £65,000 [Poseidon system](#) since it was installed in March of 2003.



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**One step further** (Score:5, Interesting)

by [fembots \(753724\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:27PM ([#13449560](#))

(<http://christchurch.iclod.com/>)

Paging lifeguards is good as long as one is available.

Maybe in the future, a secondary (upper) tiles can be installed on the pool floor, and the system is pinpoint the victim and automatically raise enough tiles to push the victim out of the water.

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- [Re:One step further](#) by [fgl](#) (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @06:30PM

**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Informative)

by [TedTschopp \(244839\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:34PM ([#13449608](#))

(<http://www.tolkienonline.com/>)

The article stated that the pool was busy and that she jumped in and never came up, she was out as she was entering the water. No scream, no splashing or struggling, just girl jumps and doesn't come up out of the water.

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- [Re:One step further](#) by [sharkey](#) (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:21PM

**Re:One step further** (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Overzeetop \(214511\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:30PM ([#13449](#))

(Last Journal: [Thursday December 09, @10:25AM](#))

We played games like this when I was a little kid. You know, jump in and you're dead, sinking slowly to the bottom, then lying there until you have to come up for air. With this system, it would give a false positive. Lifeguards are trained to see progressive problems, and to filter out as much play as possible. This might have been pulled out by the guard anyway, or it could have taken a minute or 30 seconds to a couple of minutes to register that she wasn't just playing.

4 people is pretty slow, so she's more likely to have been pulled out "in time" without the system. I think the marketing pimp was a bit sensational with the "more minute" claim, but if it bought this girl 30 seconds, it was probably worth it.

I didn't see any mention of the "miss" rate on this system.

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- [Re:One step further](#) by [Anonymous Coward](#) (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:53PM

**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Overzeetop \(214511\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:25PM

([#13450339](#))

(Last Journal: [Thursday December 09, @10:25AM](#))

The miss rate matters. It matters because you'll never get a duplicate rescue - one where both the system and the lifeguard recognized the problem in-time/simultaneously (i.e. - the system wasn't needed). The false positive rate also matters, as lifeguards are human, and will fall prey to the cry wolf syndrome over time if the false positive rate is too high.

I **do** think the system is worth it. I also think it's been overrated by marketers, and will continue to believe so until I see more complet

Yes, I was a lifeguard, and a lifeguard instructor, back when I was I would have liked to have this system. Now that I'm older and, pr wiser I would like it twice as much. Why? Two sets of eyes are be one, even if one set is digital. I would never fogive myself if I lost a pool simply because I didn't happen to notice one of them slip ur surface and get lost in the commotion of a really busy summer poc

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**Re:One step further** (Score:4, Insightful)

by [jacksonj04 \(800021\)](#) <[nick@tn-uk.net](mailto:nick@tn-uk.net)> on Wednesday August 31, @ (#13450273)

(<http://nick.tn-uk.net/>)

Look at the photo. You see the deep end, the longest wall visible is the d wall. The slope visible on the left is the beginning of the slope to the sha meaning there is most of the pool out of shot.

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**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Informative)

by [grammar fascist \(239789\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:53PM (#1345014

*No scream, no splashing or struggling, just girl jumps in and doesn't come up c water.*

Funny enough, that's usually what happens, since most people in distress either swim or have a medical problem that prevents them from doing so.

The non-swimmers are the most interesting. In lifeguard training, we watched a swimmers in distress taken at a water park. It turns out that something like 1/3 people who go there can't swim, and they *still* use the big slides that dump you feet of water! Lifeguards were making more than ten saves every day...so it wa perfect place to get video.

You'd be surprised how quiet they are. They're not bothered to scream or shout mostly trying to *breathe*. They move very little, splash very little, kick straight dumb, ineffective things with their arms.... The quiet, animalistic panic just bef drowning is a little eerie to watch.

If someone is trading water and shouting "HELP!" he's probably fine, in other For the moment, anyway.

Any lifeguard worth his salt would be watching young people in the deep end, those underwater. The lifeguard on duty may have been doing that, in fact, and have just waited longer than the Poseidon system did. The article doesn't say w the lifeguard was tracking the girl already.

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- [the test](#) by [zogger](#) (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @09:31PM
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  - [Re:One step further](#) by [Anonymous Coward](#) (Score:1) Wednesday August 31,
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**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [kfg \(145172\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:58PM (#13449772)

If you pay a lifeguard twice as much that does not confer on them the ability to pay a

if you pay a lifeguard twice as much that does not confer on them the ability to pay attention twice as much for twice as long.

You will find, if you try it out, that it is actually quite difficult to pay attention to a single nonmoving, object for any long period of time. Giving equal attention to merely two objects is impossible.

People in hazardous jobs routinely lose their *own* lives simply because they are not concentrating enough attention to save themselves.

Electronic sensors have their limitations as well, but tireless watching is not one of them.

KFG

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- [Re:One step further](#) by fgl (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @07:45PM

**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [kfg \(145172\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:55PM ([#13450157](#))

You haven't done a lot of heart rate monitoring, have you? A person being normally around pool might have a heart rate of 50 bpm for an hour at a go from 70 to 200 and back to 70 in a matter of minutes, or . . .

Heart rate varies radically. The only heart rate of interest that a safety monitor of this sort can convey is an arrhythmia or no heart rate at all. Ideally you would know about potential trouble *long* before that.

*Relying on computers to detect "drowning" states seems a bit halfassed to me.*

This is why the system still relies on human observation and judgement. It cannot replace the lifeguard. It is a tool of the lifeguard.

KFG

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- [Re:One step further](#) by fgl (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:12PM
  - [Re:One step further](#) by kfg (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @08:12PM
  - [Re:One step further](#) by fgl (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:40PM
- [Re:One step further](#) by w98 (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @08:02PM

**Re:One step further** (Score:4, Funny)

by [Skye16 \(685048\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @09:58PM ([#13449796](#))

Considering what a bastard I was (am), I would have consistently just watch wet just to irritate my parents who made me wear the stupid goggles. I'm relatively sure that, barring any other source of water, I **would** have pissed on it (but only because I'm the sort of person who will piss on anything) just to not have to do something ELSE they wouldn't want to do.

As an offtopic aside - I spent a lot of time grounded as a child. : )

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- [Re:One step further](#) by uncqual (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:57PM
- [Re:One step further](#) by rossifer (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @02:48AM

**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Valleye \(858254\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:02PM ([#13449796](#))

If you RTFA you would also have read that the water is too deep the glare makes it difficult to see the bottom. Couple that with a silent drowning and you can see why a life guard cannot do this.

Instead of losing the diving boards and shallowing the pool which takes lots of fun out of pools. They invested in the system. It seems to work well in my estimation.

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- [Re:One step further](#) by COIaIMAN (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:19PM
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**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Informative)

by [Valiss \(463641\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:08PM ([#13449835](#))  
(<http://www.pctoolbin.com/>)

*Or the lifeguards can just pay attention? Isn't that what they are paid for?*

I spent the first few years of college as a lifeguard for the city and county. Sure, a life pays attention, but when the city is short staffed due to the budget and there is 1 lifeguard, every 45 kids at the pool, it's hard to watch them all at the same time.

Combine that with the fact that this is a job where you are paying just a couple bucks hour than min. wage to ensure you child does not die. And, like so many other service parents just treat the city pool like a babysitter.

Honestly, I left because (despite what Baywatch will tell you) it's a reasonably high salary for such low pay.

I might look at one kid down in the pool among the 100+ other kids in my section to see that kid practicing floating? Is he *playing* dead with his friends? Should I blow my whistle to make a save? Maybe he's just trying new goggles underwater. Do I risk that? What if wrong? Combine that with the fact that IF a child were to die, the parent would sue you and everyone above you all the way to the mayor.

These are the millions of things that go through your mind every few minutes when you are watching a pool. In the 2 years I was there, I only had to save 1 kid. And it was due to neglect: a mother let her infant walk into the shallow end of the pool. As soon as the kid tripped in the water, he was no longer able to regain his footing and was floating face down (the pool!) After the end of that season, I traded in my buoy for a keyboard.

So it's not always as clear as to "just look at the water."

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- [Re:One step further](#) by E8086 (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @08:06PM
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- [Re:One step further](#) by hackstraw (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @10:04PM
- [Re:One step further](#) by Darkman, Walkin Dude (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @

**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Detritus \(11846\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:12PM ([#13449855](#))  
(<http://slashdot.org/>)

I was involved in a similar situation when I was a kid. A teenage girl, who was a poor swimmer, somehow swallowed some water and lost consciousness after diving in to the shallow end of the pool. When I saw her, she was just suspended above the bottom, neutrally buoyant. The only reason I could see her was that I was swimming in the same area. She really was visible from where the lifeguard was stationed, which was supposed to give the lifeguard a clear view of the entire pool. I ran and told the lifeguard, who immediately dove in and pulled her out. She quickly responded to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and was OK. I don't blame the lifeguard. Due to the way the pool was designed and where the elevated lifeguard chair was located, the girl was difficult to see.

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**Re:One step further** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Elminst \(53259\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @10:45PM ([#13451110](#))  
(<http://slashdot.org/>)

Spoken by someone who obviously never lifeguarded.

Lifeguards are underpaid, undervalued, and generally overworked.

WE are treated like cheap babysitters. When I guarded we had parents drop their kids at the pool.. and leave them there until 9 PM. Didn't matter that public swim was open from 6-9 and 630-9. And they would do this everyday.



And as other people have already posted; baywatch is full of shit. The vast majority of drownings occur just as this one did- SILENT.

There is no splashing, no screaming, no struggling. Because the person drowning has purpose; get air.

Ever get the wind knocked out of you? do you run around the yard yelling for oxygen? You curl up in a ball. maybe one or two small arm movements, as you concentrate on the thing; BREATHING.

In 10 years of lifeguarding, I was LUCKY enough to have to only pull one little girl out of the lake when she caught a wave in the face. No screams, no splashing. Just silence and eucalyptus saucers.

Anything that that can shave even 30 secs off an emergency situation is a good thing.

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**Re:KISS** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Taladar \(717494\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:29PM ([#13450361](#))

An untrained parent whose attention is not guaranteed will never be as safe as a trained lifeguard.

You are right. But neither of those two alone is enough. Both the parents and the lifeguard are responsible for watching the children. And the parents, not the lifeguard, are to blame for drowned children. If they were not confident in their child's swimming skills they could have sent it to courses or avoided going swimming completely. If the lifeguard has neither of those choices.

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- [Re:KISS](#) by Tekgno (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @04:33AM
- [Not in my pool!](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:57PM
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**Excellent.** (Score:4, Insightful)

by [Trusty Penfold \(615679\)](#) \* <[jon\\_edwards@spanners4us.com](mailto:jon_edwards@spanners4us.com)> on Wednesday August 31, @06: (#13449577)

(Last Journal: [Sunday December 01, @12:22AM](#))

That's wonderful news.

But ... "It then compares images to a database of thousands of examples of swimmers in trouble." like an inefficient and error prone way to solve this problem.

Obviously it worked in this case, but I would have thought the opposite approach would be safer - compare images to pictures of swimmers not in trouble and alert if there is no match.

With this existing system, if you drown in a way the system doesn't know about then you drown. With the opposite system, if you swim in a way the system doesn't know about then the lifeguard § page, he has a quick check and presses the 'swimmer is okay' override button.

And why is image comparison even needed in this case? If an object of person size is on the bottom moving for more than X seconds (where X is some small number) then something is wrong.

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  - [Re:Except...](#) by CProgrammer98 (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @02:48AM
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- [Re:Excellent.](#) by Syrae (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:06PM
  - [Re:Excellent.](#) by Hawke666 (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @12:18AM

**Re:Excellent.** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [kfg \(145172\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:12PM (#13449854)

Why is it harder to park a car than unpark one?

Because there is only one state in the entire universe that counts as being parked. To park a must achieve the restricted state.

To unpark a car you need only achieve any *other* state.

The number of states a person not in trouble can be in is large. The number of states a person in trouble can be in is far smaller.

KFG

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**£65,000?** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [toofast \(20646\)](#) \* on Wednesday August 31, @06:30PM (#13449581)

Worth every cent.

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**Re: £65,000?** (Score:4, Funny)

by [Homology \(639438\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:50PM (#13449715)

*Worth every cent.*

Erh, I guess that should be **pennies** :-)

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- [Re: £65,000?](#) by hedley (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:49PM
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**Mastercard** (Score:3, Funny)

by [LittleGuernica \(736577\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:31PM (#13449587)

(<http://www.threadles...tteam=littleguernica>)

Mastercard will love this one. Poseidon: 65k. Saving a young life: priceless. For everything else...: the drill

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- [Re:Mastercard](#) by MrScience (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:25PM
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**Another link with video...** (Score:5, Informative)

by [It doesn't come easy \(695416\)](#) \* on Wednesday August 31, @06:32PM (#13449595)

Another link [with video and more details](#) [bbc.co.uk]. As the father of a two-year-old daughter, wa the girl sink to the bottom of the pool, completely motionless for a minute or so, and then be rescu invoked more emotion in me than I would have believed possible. I would say this one incident m justified the \$118,000 price tag.

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**Re:Another link with video...** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [temojen \(678985\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:05PM (#13449814)

(Last Journal: [Friday July 29, @02:45PM](#))

The Price is about to go up...

As every public pool administrator in Europe and North America realize they could get sue don't have the system and someone drowns.

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  - [Re:Another link with video...](#) by Adammil2000 (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:17PM



- [Re:Another link with video...](#) by patricksevenlee (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @09:31P
  - [Re:Another link with video...](#) by ArtStone (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @03:54P
- [Too bad its from the BBC.](#) by Some Random Username (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:39P
 

**Download the video here:** (Score:5, Informative)  
by [Some Random Username \(873177\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:59PM ([#1345](#))  
(Last Journal: [Tuesday August 30, @12:13PM](#))  
<http://download.poseidon-tech.com/Bangor/Film/> [poseidon-tech.com]

Username and password are both user1.

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- [Re:Download the video here:](#) by westyx (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @08:12PM
    - [Re:Download the video here:](#) by Some Random Username (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:27PM
      - [Re:Download the video here:](#) by westyx (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @08:47PM
    - [Re:Download the video here:](#) by DeadInSpace (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @09:00PM
- [Speed limiters on cars](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:38AM
  - [Re:Speed limiters on cars](#) by mollymoo (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @03:11AM
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### **65,000 pounds. So?** (Score:4, Insightful)

by [SiMac \(409541\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:32PM ([#13449598](#))

(<http://www.simonster.com/>)

The editorial comment makes it sound like the 65,000 pounds was a waste of money, but I'm sure the child died, the parents would have parted with that much to have her back.

Seriously, 65,000 pounds for a life ain't bad. Look at the Vioxx lawsuit...

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- [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by Vellmont (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:45PM
- [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by monkeydo (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:59PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by Trinn (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:05PM
    - [really?](#) by toiletmonster (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:49PM
      - [Re:really?](#) by Trinn (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @09:46PM
      - [Re:really?](#) by Blkdeath (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @10:21PM
        - [Re:really?](#) by Anne Thwacks (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @05:49A
    - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:27AM
    - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by SoloFlyer2 (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @08:02PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by kraut (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:15PM
    - [Flaming Space Meatballs](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:22AM
    - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by cakesy (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @05:17AM
- [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by subreality (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @07:04PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by WolfWithoutAClause (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:09P
    - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by topham (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:29PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So? - Other stats ITFA](#) by Overzeetop (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:22PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by geekoid (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:05PM
    - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by subreality (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @09:33PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by Chris Burke (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:06PM
    - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by subreality (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @09:41PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by dtfinch (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @10:40PM
- [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by dougmc (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:20PM
  - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by kraut (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:22PM
    - [Re:65,000 pounds. So?](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:19AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

### **Strange. The same thing happened in Norway today.** (Score:1, Redundant)

by [Enramot \(613721\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:32PM ([#13449599](#))

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/uriks/article1106293.ece> [aftenposten.no] Unfortunately only Norwegian. but there are some pictures.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

- [Re:Strange. The same thing happened in Norway toda](#) by ninjagin (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:39PM

**in conjunction with a lifeguard on duty** (Score:2)

by [bigwavejas \(678602\) \\*](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:33PM ([#13449604](#))

I think this coupled with an on-guard lifeguard is the way to go. One shouldn't replace the other. While swimming, during free-swim, sometimes there's so many people in the pool its hard to make sense of anything. I can see where something like this would greatly enhance overall safety.

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- [Re:in conjunction with a lifeguard on duty](#) by EndlessNameless (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:48PM
  - [Re:in conjunction with a lifeguard on duty](#) by bigwavejas (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:17PM
    - [Re:in conjunction with a lifeguard on duty](#) by bigwavejas (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:26PM
    - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

**Clarification** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Poromenos1 \(830658\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:35PM ([#13449621](#))

(<http://porocrom.poromenos.org/>)

*This is the first time a UK swimmer has been saved by the £65,000 Poseidon system since it was introduced in March of 2003.*

Does this mean that the others weren't saved, or that that noone else came close to drowning?

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- [Re:Clarification](#) by mollymoo (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @03:29AM
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**How did she drown?** (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Odin Tiger \(585113\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:37PM ([#13449628](#))

"She just jumped into the water and drifted down to the bottom, as if she was going to sleep." That's extremely bizarre to me. How does a person just lose consciousness like that? Shock from cold water maybe?

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- [Re:How did she drown?](#) by Spy der Mann (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:52PM
  - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:How did she drown?](#) by SimonInOz (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:12PM
  - [Re:How did she drown?](#) by JorDan Clock (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @10:21PM
    - [Re:How did she drown?](#) by SimonInOz (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @10:58PM

**Re:How did she drown?** (Score:5, Informative)

by [Mia'cova \(691309\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @11:31PM ([#1345137](#))

Rescues can be dangerous. Alerting a weak swimmer near to someone finishing their life would essentially result in two people drowning. The weak swimmer would approach the drowning victim, be grabbed, and pulled underwater. The drowning victim pulls/pushes themselves upwards for air. That's how I see a conscious scenario working out.

In a scenario like this one, pulling them up improperly would likely result in extra water in the lungs. This makes resuscitation significantly more difficult. A proper rescue would cover the mouth and nose and tilt the face downwards so they're raised to the surface.

If the victim was injured in a such a way that a spinal injury was incurred, an untrained patron grabbing them could result in paralysis.

Untrained patrons may also find themselves ill-prepared to deal with other conditions such as seizures.

Not to mention the legal ramifications of this. If a patron was at all injured or traumatized by being in a situation where the facility placed a moral obligation on them to help on their shoulders, there's the potential for an ugly law-suit.

All in all, I think alerting the lifeguards to these alerts is adequate. There will always be lifeguards available to respond to an emergency. When there is no staffing available to respond to emergencies, the pool is closed. That's standard. Bringing the public into a sketchy situation is something I would, as a lifeguard, be hesitant to see.

Just keep in mind not everyone can swim. Not everyone lives near a beach and not everyone is from a part of the world where swimming is particularly common. Many aquatic dangers are not obvious if you haven't grown up around water. Work in Vancouver for a few years and you'll get a pretty good idea of how swimming abilities range in various countries. I'm not bashing them. I'm saying swimming abilities and water safety skills range greatly.

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- [Re:How did she drown?](#) by CProgrammer98 (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @03:04AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:How did she drown?](#) by IthnkImParanoid (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:16PM

### **Poseidon Vista** (Score:5, Funny)

by [LittleGuernica \(736577\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:37PM ([#13449629](#))

(<http://www.threadless.com/team=littleguernica>)

In late 2006 they will install Poseidon Vista, which makes the entire pool searchable, have an "aquatic" interface and transparent water. A new filtering system is also planned, called PoseidonFS, but will probably come with service pack 1.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

- [Re:Poseidon Vista](#) by DigitalJeremy (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @06:51PM
- [Re:Poseidon Vista](#) by WillAffleckUW (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:59PM
  - [Re:Poseidon Vista](#) by FidelCatsRO (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @03:22AM
- [2 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.

### **Joke** (Score:2, Insightful)

by [lappy512 \(853357\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:37PM ([#13449631](#))

(<http://www.krazyletter.com/>)

This reminds me of a joke about a education school system:

This guy describes to the school administrator about a complex method of educating students, but like a good idea to get students to learn.

But, the Administrator looked at the price tag, and asked, is it really worth it, to spend all this money on education?

And the guy replied: "If it was MY child, yes!"

This shows that some things, no matter the price tag, can be justified to save a life or the education.

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- [Re:Joke](#) by Vellmont (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @07:28PM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

### **Next Stop: The Cubicle Farm** (Score:1, Troll)

by [ScentCone \(795499\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:37PM ([#13449632](#))

It should be fairly easy to detect snoozy Wally-types, based on their immobile desk chair profiles.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Gotta love PR people** (Score:1, Flamebait)

by [The Hobo \(783784\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:42PM ([#13449661](#))

Check out this gem (emphasis mine):

Francois Marmion, general manager of Vision IQ, 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 v noisy and crowded environment in which they work. **"Thankfully she made a full recovery, but minute or so longer under the water and she would have suffered brain damage or died."**

Does he think he's a doctor or what?

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- [Re:Gotta love PR people](#) by neurosis101 (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:51PM
- [Re:Gotta love PR people](#) by Reality Master 101 (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:51PM
- [Re:Gotta love PR people](#) by ultramk (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @06:55PM

**Re:Gotta love PR people** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [pclminion \(145572\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:14PM ([#13449876](#))

*Does he think he's a doctor or what?*

You don't have to be a doctor to know facts (such as, brain damage starts to occurs 4 to 6 m after removal of oxygen).

What if the guy had said, "If that car had hit her head on, she surely would have broken son bones?" I guess he's not qualified to make that statement, either?

Doctors distinguish themselves by *diagnosing* illness and then working to *cure* it. That does the rest of us are blithering idiots.

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- [Re:Gotta love PR people](#) by back\_pages (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:29PM
- [Re:Gotta love PR people](#) by rbarreira (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @10:56PM

**I wonder why it decided to save her** (Score:5, Funny)

by [kyle90 \(827345\)](#) <[kyle90@gmail.com](mailto:kyle90@gmail.com)> on Wednesday August 31, @06:42PM ([#13449663](#))

(<http://kyle90.blogspot.com/> | Last Journal: [Thursday April 07, @08:58PM](#))

After all, she only had an 11% chance of survival, but Will Smith had a 40% chance.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Scary** (Score:1)

by [webby123 \(911327\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:46PM ([#13449694](#))

Underwater swimming cameras!

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Cheaper alternative** (Score:1)

by [Tanjou \(83126\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:48PM ([#13449706](#))

The system is a good idea, but looking at the camera feed I can't help but think... why not just have dedicated person (doesn't even have to be a lifeguard) watch the camera feed? No fancy technology needed...

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Re:Cheaper alternative** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [RatBastard \(949\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:54PM ([#13449750](#))

(<http://www.trilobite.org/>)

*why not just have one dedicated person [snip] watch the camera feed?*

Boredom. You get bored. look at something else, sneeze, go to the restroom, etc... and you 1 whole thing. Computers don't get bored, thirsty, tired, hungry, etc...

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- [Re:Cheaper alternative](#) by Reality Master 101 (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:00PM
- [Re:Cheaper alternative](#) by ugmoe (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:34PM
- [Re:Cheaper alternative](#) by TheHawke (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:47PM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

**This instance alone** (Score:1)

by [HateBreeder \(656491\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:53PM ([#13449742](#))

Justifies the entire cost of the system.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Cost benefit** (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Michael Woodhams \(112247\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:56PM ([#13449759](#))

(Last Journal: [Monday August 15, @11:23PM](#))

Back-of-the-envelope:

100 systems installed, 65k pounds per system = 6.5M pounds.

Five lives saved (according to the article) = 1.3M pounds per life.

+: The systems are only recently installed, and have years of use yet, so should save many more. In 20% through their life-cycle, we can expect final cost around 260k pounds/life.

+?: Perhaps the system will allow cost savings through fewer lifeguards.

-: We're not 100% sure those people wouldn't have been saved anyway without the system.

-: I haven't accounted for running costs, just purchase cost.

It is at least in the ball-park of cost-per-life-saved for other safety expenditure such as on airlines and it will get cheaper. So we can expect these to become wide-spread in the next decade.

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- [Re:Cost benefit](#) by GPez (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @07:14PM
  - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by PsiPsiStar (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:15PM
    - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by surprise\_audit (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @09:13PM
      - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
    - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by bluekanoodle (Score:3) Thursday September 01, @12:39AM
      - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
  - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by Michael Woodhams (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:47PM
    - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by firewrought (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @02:32AM
  - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by Ziviyr (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @12:39AM
  - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by HD Webdev (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @01:17AM
- [Re:Cost benefit](#) by hackstraw (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @10:11PM
  - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by prefect42 (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @05:34AM
- [Re:Cost benefit](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:08AM
  - [Re:Cost benefit](#) by Ziviyr (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @12:43AM

**Good God!** (Score:5, Funny)

by [Black Parrot \(19622\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:56PM ([#13449761](#))

> *by paging lifeguards when it could not detect her moving.*

Let's hope they never deploy this where I work!

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- [Re:Good God!](#) by Gentlewhisper (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:05PM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

**no records of people folling that system?** (Score:1)

by [leckmi \(911151\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:04PM ([#13449813](#))



(<http://www.ftpz.us/>)

firstoff, nice to hear "IT saved a young life". are there any records of people making fun out of fof system?

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**Kind of pointless** (Score:2, Insightful)

by [EdwinBoyd \(810701\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:05PM (#13449818)

I'm happy to hear that the girl was not hurt and I'll be the first to throw out the corny "if it saves or then it's worth the cost" However, we're speaking about a pool here, it's not as if the lifeguard has : beach to scan. At best the device sent the page seconds before the guard on duty would notice and encourages the guards to perhaps not be as diligent as they should be. "Excuse me my son appears drowning" "No fear ma'am the Hasslehoff 3000 is on the job"

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- [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by sobachatina (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:12PM
  - [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by pclminion (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:40PM
    - [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by geekoid (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:46PM
      - [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by pclminion (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:03PM
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    - [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by nuggetman (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @
  - [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by CProgrammer98 (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @03:09A
- [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by ugmoe (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @07:41PM
  - **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**
- [Re:Kind of pointless](#) by nuggetman (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @08:20AM
- **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**

**related images not in the article** (Score:2, Informative)

by [file cabinet \(773149\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:11PM (#13449849)

(Last Journal: [Thursday April 22, @05:05PM](#))

<http://images.thetimes.co.uk/TGD/picture/0,,224690,00.jpg> [thetimes.co.uk]

<http://images.thetimes.co.uk/TGD/picture/0,,224691,00.jpg> [thetimes.co.uk]

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**Paid for itself....** (Score:2)

by [MajorDick \(735308\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:13PM (#13449868)

It would seem this gadget quite paid for itself by this one action, no other action need be performe unit for its lifespan to prove its worth.

On a dark note, possibly, if here in the US, it would have saved a hell of a lawsuit of wich th atty f probably sum that total.

But a life at 100k \$ us...not bad...not to mention I am sure her and her family couldnt be more hapy

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**In other news...** (Score:3, Funny)

by [mriya3 \(803189\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:15PM (#13449887)

"An automated swimmer tracking system installed in a pool in Wales allowed lifeguards to ban a r was urinating in the pool"

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**not a good idea in the US.** (Score:1)

by [xmorg \(718633\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:21PM (#13449923)

(<http://www.cooperlabs.net/>)

The fact that the system will send warning to the Lifeguard, opens up a whole area of lawsuits.

Kids will be kids, and will go motionless in the water, or there will be tons of false warnings. The marco polo will have some issues, no doubt, and in the end, some kid may drown, and the lawyers all over both the company, lifeguard, and the city/owner of the pool.

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- [No](#), by geekoid (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @07:41PM

**It already paid itself back...** (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Yaa 101 \(664725\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:24PM ([#13449944](#))

(Last Journal: [Tuesday June 01, @06:25PM](#))

People in Europe and the UK are worth about 1.000.000 Euro's, this is the smallest amount that thi will hand over as taxes to the country it lives in.

So apart from being great to save lifes, it is really an economical sound thing to do.

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- [What if it you only have a "partial save"?](#) by NotQuiteReal (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @10:00AM
  - [Re:What if it you only have a "partial save"?](#) by Zeebs (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @10:00AM
- [Really?](#) by YesIAMAScript (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @01:29AM
- [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)

**I propose a similar system...** (Score:1, Redundant)

by [exp\(pi\\*sqrt\(163\)\) \(613870\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:31PM ([#13449998](#))

(Last Journal: [Monday January 06, @11:36PM](#))

...but instead of underwater cameras the cameras should be placed in offices and the system should take images of workers with a database of pictures of slackers. That way, the project I'm working on (which coincidentally, is codenamed 'poseidon') might get completed on time.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Price of a human life** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Teppy \(105859\) \\*](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:46PM ([#13450097](#))

I know that there will soon be people chomping at the bit to mandate these things.

I did some calculations. There are [7.6 million residential pools in the US](#) [aaionline.com], and [83 drownings per year among children age 0-14](#) [cdc.gov]. This number includes non-pool drownings. The cost to save each child is actually higher than below. There are also a smaller number of adult deaths. Assuming a pool lasts for 20 years:

Cost per pool per year:

$$\$100,000/20 = \$5,000.$$

Cost per year, nationwide:

$$\$5,000 * 7.6M = \$38B$$

Cost per life saved:

$$\$38B / 832 = \$45.6M$$

The per capita Gross Domestic Product of the US is [\\$40,100](#) [cia.gov]. At this rate, one person must work 1,140 years to save someone else's life. I realize that it's very chic to say you can't put a price on life, but if you don't, the entire population of the world will quickly be working full-time to do nothing but save lives.

It's a shame that logic always loses out to "Please, won't someone think about the children!"

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**15 cents per person is too much?** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Trillian 1138 \(221423\)](#) <[trillian@evilemail.com](mailto:trillian@evilemail.com)> on Wednesday August 31, @08:05PM ([#13450225](#))

You didn't take the math to its completion. Sure, if each of the 832 people has to pay for the

rescue, it's \$45.6M per person (going by your math, which I have no reason to doubt).

But one of the great things about living in a country is that you get to pool (no pun intended) resources of everyone who lives there. So \$45.6M /295M in the USA (according to Google) 16 cents per person per year. I'd say 16 cents is a bargain for a life-saving technology.

I think I understand your objection, in that if we buy every new technology we \*may\* end up "too much" and spend all of our money on mechanisms which are only going to save one or two people. But at what point is "too much" to save a life?

I completely agree in that, at some point, a line needs to be drawn. But it's ridiculous to say "one person must work 1,140 years to save someone else's life" because that's not how our country works (or any, as far as I know). I'm not going to need to work for a thousand years for fire protection, the police department or public education for that matter because those are things that, as a society, we've decided get used enough to pool our resources to buy as a city/county/state/country.

A better argument might be "For \$38 billion we could do XXX and save more lives." That I can get behind. I was even with your math for the first two calculations, as I expected you to say "for \$38B we could save a million people from dying of AIDs" or some other life-saving expenditure. But talking about a 'per-person' cost of something that wouldn't be billed 'per person' seems unrealistic.

-Trillian

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- [Re:15 cents per person is too much?](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:05AM
  - [Re:15 cents per person is too much?](#) by Trillian\_1138 (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @01:49AM
- [that's one conclusion...](#) by YesIAMAScript (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @01:10AM
- [and you're really missing one thing..](#) by YesIAMAScript (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @01:35AM
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- [Re:Price of a human life](#) by kraut (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @08:27PM
- [Re:Price of a human life](#) by SewersOfRivendell (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:00PM
- [Re:Price of a human life](#) by rbarreira (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:08PM
  - [Re:Price of a human life](#) by typical (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:00AM
- [Re:Price of a human life](#) by RexRhino (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:23PM
  - [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)
- [Re:Price of a human life](#) by KLFrosty (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @12:48AM
  - [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)
- [Re:Price of a human life -- Open Source Poseidon?](#) by Fjan11 (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @12:48AM
- [3 replies beneath your current threshold.](#)

**It's hard to argue...** (Score:2)

by [Himring \(646324\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:59PM ([#13450181](#))

(<http://fatkiddown.blogspot.com/> | Last Journal: [Friday December 10, @08:43AM](#))

With success. This is technology at its best.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Scaling up** (Score:2)

by [Effugas \(2378\)](#) \* on Wednesday August 31, @08:02PM ([#13450204](#))

(<http://www.doxpara.com/>)

If this were deployed in every pool, there would be competition, and with competition would be significantly reduced prices. Honestly, just a "bottom-of-the-pool cam" to every lifeguard, with an array of sections of the bottom that aren't changing but do have someone -- this would catch quite a bit, and is cheap to implement.

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**How about** (Score:3, Insightful)

by [melted \(227442\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:19PM ([#13450306](#))

(<http://slashdot.org/>)

How about just watching your freaking kids using the freaking pool? What if pool owner installs t

\$100K+ system and it fails to react to a drowning kid? What if no one is available to rescue the kid or the potential rescuer is also a poor swimmer?

There are thousands of "what ifs" here. The point is, watch after your kids until they're smart enough to watch after themselves (about 20-21 years or so). This is coming from a person who had a severe stroke at 1.5 years of age due to parents not watching.

Spending hundred thousand dollars is not a reason to be careless enough to let your kid (or friend) drown in the pool.

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- [Re:How about](#) by rbarreira (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:10PM
  - [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)
- [Re:How about](#) by thebatlab (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @12:43AM
  - [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)
- [My point was](#) by melted (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @02:46AM

### **19 seconds?** (Score:2)

by [iCEBaLM \(34905\)](#) <[icebalm.icebalm@com](mailto:icebalm.icebalm@com)> on Wednesday August 31, @08:22PM ([#134503](#)) (<http://www.icebalm.com/>)

I watched the poseidon video capture of the rescue, the alarm looks to have been sounded 11 seconds after the girl was unconscious. The lifeguard doesn't actually dive in until the 30th seconds. Where was the lifeguard for 19 seconds? Is this typical? Seems a little long for a lifeguard who should be right post the pool.

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### **The system is a waste of money** (Score:2, Informative)

by [ajax142 \(69131\)](#) <[MEjjhelmusREMOVENO@SPAMmtu.edu](mailto:MEjjhelmusREMOVENO@SPAMmtu.edu)> on Wednesday August 31, @08:22PM ([#13450421](#))

As a long time swimmer and a lifeguard myself, I have to say I think a system like this is a complete waste of money.

I've been to lots of pools where the lifeguard were sitting at a desk reading and not watching the water. In some cases there stayed inside an office. Now most of these pools were lap pool where only 'hardcore' swimmers spend time, but still a pulled muscle in the deep end and even the best swimmer can go in there.

On the other hand I've been to other pools, and worked at one with really good lifeguards. The pool I worked at had [Ellis lifeguards](#) [jellis.com] and our training and expectations were an order of magnitude higher than the traditional Red Cross lifeguards at most pools (sorry I have to shame any organization that tells you to treat someone for a neck injury before getting the person breathing). I doubt the girl in the article would have made it to the bottom at my pool. A **good** lifeguard can tell which swimmers can swim and which can't by watching them. Those that can't swim get watched more, and if they do something stupid, like jumping into the deep end, in seconds you'll know if they're coming up or not.

I think that a system like these will only decrease the number of good lifeguards hired and we will see more lifeguards sitting behind desks or in offices reading because "the computer is watching them". The £65,000 cost of the Poseidon system would have been better spent hiring more and better trained lifeguards and keeping them well trained.

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- [Re:The system is a waste of money](#) by rbarreira (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:15PM
  - [Re:The system is a waste of money](#) by jonastullus (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @02:30PM
- [Re:The system is a waste of money](#) by KillerBob (Score:3) Wednesday August 31, @11:17PM
  - [Re:The system is a waste of money](#) by ajax142 (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @11:33PM
- [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)

### **Billiards** (Score:4, Funny)

by [NitsujTPU \(19263\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:41PM ([#13450428](#))

(<http://www.hcoop.net/~nitsuj>)

RTFA, the British don't call it pool, they call it Billiards!

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

- [Re:Billiards](#) by PGC (Score:1) Thursday September 01, @05:22AM

### **Once was enough** (Score:1)

by [Bit\\_Squeezer \(824571\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:41PM ([#13450432](#))

" This is the first time a UK swimmer has been saved by the £65,000 Poseidon system since it was in March of 2003"

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

### **Money well spent** (Score:1)

by [curtlewis \(662976\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:58PM ([#13450540](#))

65k british pounds is about \$110k US. The system has saved one life already. I'm sure that girl thi worth the money as well as her parents. I do too.

If it worked once, it'll probably work again. It'll never replace lifeguards, but it certainly has shown a valuable assistant.

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### **£65,000** (Score:2)

by [Hellfire \(170113\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @09:01PM ([#13450553](#))

(<http://www.cr0n.net/>)

Sounds like £65,000 well spent to me.

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### **Is drowning painful?** (Score:2)

by [johansalk \(818687\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @09:28PM ([#13450691](#))

I heard once that drowning was a horrible way to die, but my personal experience of it from what I've been told was a near-drowning event when I was a kid was, dare I say, pleasant and much like a dream. Seeing cartoon characters in the depth that were smiling for me till someone 'saved' me and I was 'back' to my parents' panic. Maybe I wasn't drowning.

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### **Re:Is drowning painful?** (Score:5, Insightful)

by [KillerBob \(217953\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @10:55PM ([#13451172](#))

(<http://www.killerbob.ca/>)

I'm saying this as a lifeguard, not as somebody who's ever drowned....

The part while you're conscious is terrifying. If you lose conscious, you suffocate. I've had various chokes applied at Jiu Jitsu, and I imagine that drowning, when unconscious, is much the same. You start to grey out, you get weak, then you get numb, and finally, everything goes limp and you're out. If it's done right, you're out in under 20 seconds, and probably won't remember anything that happened. Likewise, I think that drowning, once you go unconscious, is a pretty peaceful way to die and you probably won't have much memory of the conscious part if you're rescued and revived. You could very easily have hallucinations or dreams while you're suffocating, depending on how you are. Children tend to have lower oxygen carrying capacity than adults, because of a less dense volume of blood, and as a result they usually go unconscious faster. They are also a lot easier to revive :)

However... the part before you fall unconscious is pretty darned frightening. You run on cortisol and adrenaline, and are a lot stronger than you would normally be. People who think they're drowning and realize what that means, will grab on to anything that floats, including rescuers, but they usually relax, and sometimes pass out as soon as they realize that they're safe. Sometimes, though, it's safer for the rescuer to wait until the victim goes unconscious before rescuing them, particularly when you aren't part of a team, and don't have people to help you.

The real risk with drowning cases, and the reason I suggest that anybody who drowns goes to hospital irregardless of how they feel after revival is secondary drowning. Often what happens is that your lungs fill with water, and the water will be absorbed into the blood stream. Later, when you wake up, the water will be absorbed into the blood stream. Later, when you wake up, the water will be absorbed into the blood stream. Later, when you wake up, the water will be absorbed into the blood stream.



you're asleep, the blood can reenter the lungs and because your pulse is lower and your breathing both slower and shallower, you can suffocate hours after the accident actually happened. If you had an accident in the water and there's *\*any\** chance that water entered your lungs, you should go to the hospital for observation overnight.

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- o [Re:Is drowning painful?](#) by rbarreira (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:19PM

- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

### **New game for kids** (Score:2)

by [dtfinch \(661405\)](#) \* on Wednesday August 31, @10:21PM ([#13450999](#))

(<http://www.mytsoftware.com/dailyproject/> | Last Journal: [Wednesday June 08, @07:22PM](#))

How long can you hold your breath at the bottom of the pool? Long enough to trigger the alarm?

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- [Re:New game for kids](#) by jonoid (Score:1) Wednesday August 31, @10:46PM
  - o [Re:New game for kids](#) by dtfinch (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @10:56PM
  - o [Re:New game for kids](#) by KillerBob (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:05PM
  - o [Not me](#) by SuperKendall (Score:2) Wednesday August 31, @11:17PM

### **Phooey** (Score:1)

by [Francisco\\_G \(676828\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @12:09AM ([#13451531](#))

I was imagining some kind of grille covering the floor of the pool, that hydraulically rises to surface whenever it detects a drowner.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

### **It only takes one...** (Score:1)

by [micah\\_gideon \(671657\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @12:24AM ([#13451618](#))

to validate this sort of a system — Advanced Class scheduled August 25, 2005 from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Location: Princeton Unprepared Party Scrabble; 65,000 is a small price to pay for a child's life and likely to be the last.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

### **I bet if you paid the lifeguards 65,000 pounds...** (Score:2)

by [birge \(866103\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @12:28AM ([#13451639](#))

(<http://www.mit.edu/~birge>)

They might actually start watching the fucking pool. What, was this girl invisible or something? Water is not opaque?

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### **underwater video cameras** (Score:1)

by [ian\\_po \(234542\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @02:00AM ([#13451980](#))

(<http://slight.hn.org/> | Last Journal: [Friday February 15, @01:44PM](#))

According to the article, the lifeguard can't always see beneath the surface due to the glare. Instead of paying some company £65,000 for an automated system, why not have a volunteer or the lifeguard use a few underwater video cameras. In this case it was the underwater camera that caught what happened. Humans are much better at analyzing moving imagery anyway. The only problem with human is that they are error prone. Giving the lifeguards monitors would also allow them to watch for shenanigans going on beneath the surface.

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- [Re:underwater video cameras](#) by windowpain (Score:2) Thursday September 01, @09:05AM

### **I've worked with Poseidon** (Score:3, Insightful)

by [HuguesT \(84078\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @05:12AM ([#13452429](#))

This is the 4th person being saved by the system. So far the system hasn't missed anybody drowning. The error rate is about 1-4 false positive per day per pool (which is acceptable according to lifeguards).

The system is very quick, reacts in about 10s. It essentially works by finding and tracking everybody underwater in the pools. It knows the 3D location of all swimmers, and reacts if someone is under motionless for a few seconds. Poseidon/VisionIQ did a lot of innovative research in 3D tracking which has been published and patented over the last 10 years or so. Some of the people working at that company are among the smartest I know.

Poseidon is a small company and as it is they barely break even. The system is not just clever software, it's lots of cameras and a fast computer system. The installation is not easy as all cameras have to be calibrated for the specific 3D architecture of the pool. The cost may look steep but really isn't that much compared with the normal cost of the pool maintenance, as it is essentially a one-off cost.

At a large public pool apparently someone can be expected to drown every other year or so in spite of lifeguards presence. Poseidon can make a difference. It cannot replace lifeguards as someone trained to do the rescues, it is just an alert system.

In 2004 in the UK a person drowned in a pool which had rejected the Poseidon system. The next day the newspaper's outline was "Person drowns for want of 65,000 Pounds".

For all the Linux aficionados out there, last I heard Poseidon ran on Windows NT 4.0.

For all the naysayers out there, when Poseidon started no one thought they had a business, but they handily created their own market. We can now expect competitors to show up. As most trailblazers Poseidon might be bought out in the future by some big security company spinoff or something. We also expect the system's cost to come down somewhat in the future, and hopefully to be more prevalent.

Nevertheless I'd be very proud to have been associated with a small outfit who has measurably saved people's lives. Very few endeavours succeed in that regard.

Best.

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**Woudn't cameras have the same effect?** (Score:1)

by [Anyd \(625939\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @05:31AM ([#13452501](#))

Maybe simple underwater cameras could have the same effect. Put a monitor out by the lifeguard and let the lifeguard(s) keep an eye on that. Perhaps it's not as novel an idea, but the cost difference is enough to make them common place in public pools. One of the scuba shops in my area had cameras mounted under plexiglass windows in the pool, so patrons in the store could watch classes in session. Although I never worked as a lifeguard at a public pool, I was certified. And as a scuba instructor I did snorkeling tours off a boat. I had to deal with distressed swimmers on a regular basis, but fortunately I never had to deal with an unconscious person in the water. Even with that background, if I glanced at a monitor and saw anything like the picture posted in the article, I'd be in the water in a heartbeat.

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**great** (Score:1)

by [Robocoastie \(777066\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @09:23AM ([#13453482](#))

now the teenbopper lifeguards can flirt more and pay even less attention to their jobs.

[ [Reply to This](#) ]

**Re:Blydu Tydu!** (Score:2, Interesting)

by [fatgav \(555629\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @06:30PM ([#13449580](#))

(<http://www.fatgav.com/>)

Off Topic? Gogs are the welsh name for people from North Wales. Blydu Tydu is faux Welsh spelling of Bloody Tidy, a welsh saying!

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**Re:Lifeguards?** (Score:4, Informative)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday August 31, @06:40PM ([#13449650](#))

TFA says that it's deeper than usual, due to the diving boards, and that there were a lot of surface swimmers.

which obscure what's happening that deep.

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**Re:Wales Needs Vowels** (Score:3, Funny)

by [oberondarksoul \(723118\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @07:15PM ([#13449889](#))  
(<http://www.consoleia.co.uk/>)

Just a hint: might want to check your facts. We use *miles* in the UK... :P

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**Re:Wales Needs Vowels** (Score:2, Informative)

by [StonedRat \(837378\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @08:11PM ([#13450253](#))  
(<http://ryanwilliams.org/> | Last Journal: [Friday January 28, @02:10PM](#))

The welsh alphabet is not the same as the english, in welsh W is a vowel.

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**Re:Wales Needs Vowels** (Score:2)

by [UnixRevolution \(597440\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @10:00PM ([#13450881](#))  
(Last Journal: [Thursday May 15, @03:52AM](#))

Actually, the concept of your post comes from an Onion article about Clinton sending vowels to b in the onion book "The Onion's Finest News Reporting, Volume One".

I thought your post was funny. Don't worry, i have mod points, i can.....D'oh!

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**Re:Blydu Tydu!** (Score:1)

by [pointguy \(761068\)](#) on Wednesday August 31, @11:08PM ([#13451256](#))

*Offtopic? If you don't understand something don't moderate it.*

You're new here, aren't you?

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**Re:Do same with Linux box and "motion" program** (Score:1)

by [Tidal Flame \(658452\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @02:01AM ([#13451983](#))  
(<http://tidalflame.net/>)

Look, there are tons of programs out there that can detect motion in images, and I'm sure that one : And I'll be the first to admit that organizations don't always spend their money as well as they could think that this system is just a *bit* more advanced than that. It needs to be pretty accurate. You can't afford to miss anything, and you can't really afford false positives either. Detecting non-motion in one thing, but not everyone who's in trouble just stops moving. Granted, it's easier for the lifeguard to see someone who's thrashing around, but to make this sort of system effective you need to allow for people who are moving around as well.

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**Re:could not detect her moving?** (Score:1)

by [Tidal Flame \(658452\)](#) on Thursday September 01, @02:09AM ([#13452017](#))  
(<http://tidalflame.net/>)

I know it's popular to make fun of the editors around here, 'cause they don't always do the best job that sentence makes perfect sense.

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*The bugs you have to avoid are the ones that give the user not only the inclination to  
plane, but also the time. -- Kay Bostic*