

Cornwall Community Mourns Death of 11-Year-Old at Wacker Quay

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A community in Cornwall has been left reeling after an 11-year-old girl died at Wacker Quay, a popular riverside beauty spot near Torpoint. Emergency services rushed to the scene on Saturday evening after reports that the child had got into difficulty in the water, but despite extensive rescue efforts, she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police confirmed they were called just before 6 pm, with teams from the Coastguard, paramedics, and multiple aircraft all deployed in the urgent search operation. Officers said the death is not being treated as suspicious, and a file will be prepared for the coroner. The girl's family have been informed and is receiving support from specialist officers.

Wacker Quay, located along the tranquil River Lynher, is a well-known destination for walkers, anglers, and birdwatchers. Maintained with the help of local volunteers, the site attracts families and visitors seeking scenic trails and free access to nature. However, the area is not without risk. The river runs deep, and safe access points to the water are limited, meaning those unfamiliar with the conditions can quickly find themselves in danger.

Witnesses described a large-scale emergency response, with crews working under fading light and difficult terrain. Search teams battled muddy ground and relied on floodlights as they tried to reach the young girl. One responder described the operation as “challenging and deeply distressing,” as efforts continued until the tragic confirmation of her death.

This incident was the second child drowning reported in the UK over the weekend. In an unrelated case, a 12-year-old boy was found dead in the River Swale near Richmond Falls, Yorkshire, late on Saturday after going missing while swimming. That death, too, is not being treated as suspicious. Both tragedies have cast a sombre mood across the country and reignited concern about water safety during the summer holidays.

Local communities in both Cornwall and Yorkshire have expressed their grief and offered condolences to the families. In Torpoint, residents have

spoken of their shock that a beloved local beauty spot could become the setting of such heartbreak. Some have already called for stronger safety measures, such as improved signage and greater public awareness of hidden risks in rivers and quays.

The emergency services have urged families to remain vigilant when near rivers, lakes, or coastal waters, even in areas that appear calm and safe. Statistics show that accidental drownings rise during the warmer months, when children and teenagers are more likely to swim in open water. Officials stress that unseen currents, sudden drops, and muddy riverbeds can all turn a summer outing into tragedy within moments.

As the investigation continues, the focus remains on supporting the girl's family as they come to terms with their loss. A spokesperson for Devon and Cornwall Police said: "Our thoughts are with the family at this incredibly difficult time."

For many, death serves as a heartbreaking reminder that the beauty of rural riversides must be met with caution. In Cornwall, the loss of a young life at Wacker Quay has transformed a cherished community space into a place of mourning.