

THE LIFESAVER

ADDENDUM

'There are sufficient trained lifesavers to be on duty at Bulgaria's beaches and swimming pools in summer **2018**, according to Anton Albantov, director of the Bulgarian Red Cross's water rescue service.

Speaking to Bulgarian National Television on June 6, Albantov said that for beaches, about **1300** lifesavers were needed, and **2000** for swimming pools.

The service trained about **1000** to **1200** lifesavers every year, he said. In the past **10** years, just for beach rescue alone, more than **4500** lifesavers had been trained. For pools, the number was more than double that, Albantov said.

The second-largest leading cause of accidental death in Bulgaria, after road fatalities, is drowning.

In **2017**, a total of **106** people died in Bulgaria's waters, more often inland than at the beaches.

Albantov said that the largest group of fatalities was people aged **50** to **65**. Often, the deaths were not drowning as such, but strokes or heart attacks brought out by going swimming after consuming alcohol or lying in the sun for a prolonged length of time and then suddenly immersing in cool water.

He said that in recent years, there had been an increase in young people interested in being trained to be lifesavers.'

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2018/06/06/bulgarian-red-cross-enough-lifesavers-for-bulgarias-beaches-in-summer-2018/>



