



Example Risk Assessment: Paddle Cleanup

This risk assessment acts as a **guide** to take you through the hazards, risks and control measures which may be encountered when running a paddle cleanup event. The scale of the event, nature of the water and prevailing conditions on the day should all be considered and a dynamic assessment always carried out on the day of the event before it commences.

All participants should be briefed on the organisation of the event (paddler cleanup toolkit – 'How to paddle cleanup') and overall safety. Use the sign in form to count paddlers in and off the water.

DATE RISK ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT:
ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT BY:

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	Risk	Control measures	Review date/review comments
Slippery, uneven or steep terrain	All	Slips, Trips and Falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan launching and landing for easy access, seeking alternatives if required.• Use suitable landing techniques and manual handling, using multiple people to move boats where required.• All participants to wear suitable footwear for use in boats and working on rough banks.	
Weather and water conditions	All	Deteriorating/ changeable conditions may compromise the safety of the group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan using a trusted weather forecast.• Make continual assessments at location, & throughout the day.• Adapt/change trip plans to maintain safety, according to the prevailing weather conditions.	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all participants are adequately clothed and sunscreen available. • In the instance of lightning the group will evacuate the water and wait for clear conditions to return. 	
Immersion in cold water	All	Drowning, Hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants to wear buoyancy aids, appropriate clothing, equipment and use familiar craft. • Leader to obtain information on participant's water confidence and swimming ability. • Carry spare clothing, land, dry off and change where necessary. • Leader to be competent at deep water rescues. • Participants briefed on procedures in the event of capsize. • Warn of the risks of over reaching for litter and other potentially hazardous maneuvers on the water which may cause capsize. • All participants advised to stay in groups. • At least one whistle per group. 	
Weather or water conditions have an adverse effect on members' health/wellbeing	All	Hypothermia, Overheating, Seasickness, Distress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participants on expected conditions. • Ensure correct equipment and clothing are worn. • Continual assessment of participants wellbeing. • Land or reduce exposure to elements causing distress of illness. 	
Other water users	All	Collisions and other crafts wake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief the group on avoidance of other craft and how to pass safely. • Use routes which minimise exposure to other craft. • Continual assessment of the environment. • Leader to maintain good group management and awareness of others. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use guidance given by British Canoeing on codes of practice whilst using busy ports or waterways. 	
Jetties, Locks, Tow-paths, River Banks, Tunnels	All	Slips, Trips, Falls and collisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make participants aware of the potential of falling off the jetty/lock/bank when removing kayaks from the water. • Brief participants on dangers of other lock/towpath users. • Warn of gap between the bank and the jetty. • Keep clear of any other craft maneuvering or using the locks/jetties/bank. • Brief group on conduct whilst on the jetty or lock-side. • When getting in/out of a kayak make sure someone is stabilising it where required. Do not allow participants to swim in areas with hazards. • Avoid jetties when in moving waters. • Assess the best entry and exit points. • Wear lighting in tunnels to increase visibility to other craft, use a whistle and travel in groups, give way to motorized craft, do not enter tunnel until clear passage available. Some tunnels have restricted access to non-powered craft. 	
Litter Picking	All	Coming into contact with sharp or dangerous items. Cuts, disease, injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective gloves must be worn when handling litter. Use litter pickers to collect litter when possible. • Instruct participants not to handle any visible sharps and report to relevant authority. Warn of the specific risk of fishing hooks and needles. • In the event of any cuts or scrapes caused by contact with sharp waste, recommend medical care. • Participants advised not to overload sacks of rubbish and to use opens as intermediate collection points. • Participants to use onion sacks or similar Black sacks can be used by open boaters. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants advised to stay in groups. At least one whistle per group. • Participants advised to be aware of brambles, stinging nettles and to respect the natural habitat and its inhabitants. • Do not pick up dead animals, instead report them to the relevant authority. 	
Medical issue & 1st Aid	All	Bleeding, illness, loss of conscious, jelly fish stings, asthma attack, allergic reaction and water pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader must hold an up to date 16hr 1st aid certificate. • Leader carries a comprehensive 1st Aid Kit. • Participants to fill out and declare known medical history. • Leaders to verbally ask about Medical history. • Ensure participants are carrying/using required medication. • If severe medical condition is disclosed, highlight increased level of risks to participant. • Put in-place measures to reduce exposure to environment. • Leader to maintain close group control to deal with situations quickly. • Choose route with good escape and landing options. • Leader continually assess participants' fitness and health. 	
Water Borne Disease and pollution	All	Contracting Weils disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with unclean water. • Brief group on how to avoid contracting water borne diseases. • Wear safety equipment in particular ensure team wear protective gloves when picking up litter and cover any cuts. • Use litter pickers to handle litter where ever possible. • Carry anti-bacterial hand sanitiser and ensure high levels of hygiene before eating. • Wash hands thoroughly after cleanup. • Advise of symptoms to be aware of including but not limited too fever, chills, headaches, nausea, vomiting 	

Entrapment	All	Drowning, injury, distress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participants on capsize procedure. • Use correct sized equipment. • Avoid/continually assess use of, enclosed environments. • Leader to manage exposure to high risk environments. 	
Difficulty controlling body temperature	All	Hyperthermia/hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate clothing is worn or carried. • Leader carry spare clothing. • Leader to carry group shelter. • Encourage participants to use sun protection. • Ensure participants have enough water and food. 	
River Hazards	All	Weirs and manmade features/overhanging trees or strainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participants of potential hazards and organise boats and expertise accordingly on the water 	
Other River Users	All	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participants to be aware of other river users and to take appropriate/avoiding action. If confrontation develops, advise to remain calm and summon help as quickly as possible. All such incidents to be reported to the organiser 	
Dynamic (Capture local risks and always assess on the day before the event)				