

Regents Canoe Club

Risk Assessment - Canal Sessions



Risk Assessment for:	Assessment undertaken:	Assessment next review:
Regents Canoe Club, 16-34 Graham Street, London N1 8JX	Date: July 2016 Signed: Sean Clarke Post: Chair	Date: June 2017

Significant Hazards	People at risk from identified hazards	Existing controls / where information may be found Further actions necessary to control the risk
Slips, trips, falls; glass and debris	All users	Users should wear suitable footwear at all sessions. Ensure people walk rather than run.
Back Injury	All users	Beginners and inexperienced paddlers should be shown the correct way to lift and carry a boat and how to empty it if full of water. All users to be reminded as necessary and more experienced members to set a good example. Instructions on boat emptying is a structured part of New Members Evenings and Introduction to White Water Kayaking courses
Injury from missiles on canal	All users	Paddlers should be made aware of occasional verbal abuse and throwing of missiles by members of the public (usually young people). Paddlers to be encouraged not to paddle by themselves especially when dark and advised not to confront anyone shouting abuse or throwing things. Paddlers may borrow a helmet to wear whilst paddling on the canal if they wish. Police to be called if serious incident arises.
Drowning	All users	As a minimum, paddlers should be able to swim 50 m. All new paddlers should be encouraged to complete a beginners course where capsize drills are practiced / or attend pool sessions. Beginners and inexperienced paddlers should be accompanied by more experienced paddler on the canal where possible. Ensure that everyone wears a buoyancy aid when on the water or walking on the pontoons.
People getting into difficulty	All users	Encourage members to not paddle alone. Advise new members / visitors to stay within the basin, especially when the weather is cold / evenings dark.
Weil's Disease / Infection etc.	All users	Paddlers should be informed of the possibilities of contracting this and other diseases from water sports and the precautions that should be taken.
Swans	All users	Paddlers should be made aware of the dangers associated with swans and keep well away from angry swans - getting out of boat and walking on towpath if necessary.
Missing persons	All users	Before getting on the canal all users are required to write their name into the duty book and then sign out once they have gotten off the water. The Duty Officer should ensure that everyone is off the water and accounted for before the club is locked up. Paddlers going further than the first lock should indicate in the log book or inform the Duty Officer or other suitable person.
Minor cuts, bruises and other injuries	All users	First Aid Kit is kept with the Duty Officer Box and is a mandatory item to be removed from the cupboard and kept with the Duty Officer during all canal sessions. The First Aid Kit is checked twice a year by the Safety & Training Officer for validity and stock take of contents