

Map Adventures Risk Assessment – Canoeing/Kayaking

<i>Risk Assessment - Canoeing</i>			
Hazard	People Harmed	Risk Control	Further Action
Drowning	All Participants	<p>Participants must wear appropriate buoyancy aids throughout the activity.</p> <p>In the case of capsize, staff to ensure all participants involved are accounted for and safe.</p>	Buoyancy aids checked by staff prior to the session beginning. Staff vigilance throughout the session to ensure buoyancy aids are worn correctly.
Hypothermia	All participants	<p>Staff to ensure that clothing is appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions.</p> <p>Cags to be issued whenever participants require them. Special attention to be paid to appropriate headwear.</p> <p>Staff to carry an appropriate group shelter and survival bag in their safety kit.</p> <p>Location of local telephones to be known by supervising staff or mobile telephones to be carried throughout the activity</p>	Staff to carry appropriate spare clothing throughout the activity.
Hit by paddles	All participants	<p>Ensure that participants are aware of the dangers of wielding paddles in confined spaces.</p> <p>If splashing is to be allowed strict rules about distances between boats and the dangers to those in the same boat</p>	Staff vigilance throughout the session.

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		<p>to be made known.</p> <p>If rafted canoes are used participants to be made aware of the special dangers of using paddles in confined spaces.</p> <p>Correct sized paddles to be used.</p>	
Trapped fingers	All participants	<p>Warning given during the initial briefing.</p> <p>Reinforcement of the warnings when the group is to raft up or when rafted canoes are moving towards solid objects.</p>	Staff vigilance and reinforcement throughout the session.
Losing contact	All participants	<p>Participants briefed as to the distance they are allowed from staff supervision. A clear system of recall to be arranged prior to the session.</p> <p>Staff to ensure that contact is not lost at the back of the group.</p>	
Overhanging trees	All participants	<p>Ensure that participants are well aware of the dangers associated with overhanging trees. Ensure that the participants know what to do if they do become entangled.</p> <p>Staff to carry emergency equipment to assist with removal from trees if necessary (knife/saw and throw line).</p> <p>Working areas to be kept as clear as possible by pruning or reporting to appropriate agency for remedial work.</p>	Periodic inspection of the river especially after floods or strong winds.

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Weil's Disease	All participants	<p>Ensure that all participants are aware of waterborne disease and the general signs and symptoms of the disease.</p> <p>Encourage all participants to wash their hands as soon after the activity. Encourage participants to take showers if they either fall in or decide to swim in the river.</p>	Participants warned to seek medical assistance if they believe they have been infected.
Hyperthermia, sunburn and dehydration	All participants	<p>Ensure participants are made aware of the dangers when appropriate. The need to cover up and protect the head to be of prime importance.</p> <p>Staff to carry spare clothing, drink and sunblock where appropriate.</p>	
Anglers	All participants	<p>Participants warned to steer away from anglers' lines wherever possible.</p> <p>Participants warned of the dangers of old line and hooks left in overhanging trees at specific sites throughout the session.</p>	
Boats	All participants	<p>Participants warned in the general briefing about the dangers from powered craft as to the waterway code.</p> <p>All participants instructed to lift according to manual handling recommendations. Straight backs and in small groups wherever possible.</p>	
Equipment failure	All participants	<p>All equipment used to be checked prior to use by the supervising staff. Any damaged or suspect equipment to be withdrawn from service until repaired or scrapped.</p> <p>Annual recorded checks to buoyancy aids and boats to be carried out as per BCU instructions.</p>	Regular checking and maintenance of equipment to be undertaken.

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Hitting head	All participants	If conditions dictate that there is a danger of contact with objects at speed or if activity is planned which would include the danger of falling and hitting ones head then helmets must be worn. Situations would include fast flowing rivers or some canoe games.	
Wildlife and farm animals	All participants	All participants warned as to the dangers with wild and farm animals and on how to behave near them.	Vigilance by supervising staff throughout the session.
Extra information for Kayaking			
Capsize	All participants	Instruct all participants in capsize drill. Ensure that the remainder of the group know what to do while a rescue is in progress.	Conduct land based capsize drill prior to getting on the water.
Entrapment	All participants	<p>Check suitability of craft for participant. Pay particular attention to cockpit size and position of footrests.</p> <p>Check footwear of participants to anticipate problems with inflexible soles.</p> <p>Staff vigilance throughout session and staff to carry appropriate emergency equipment knife/saw and throw lines to assist with rescues if necessary.</p>	Position of staff throughout the session to ensure observation of the group.
Hitting head	All participants	If it is intended to engage in activity where there is a danger of falling onto objects and hitting ones head helmets should be worn.	Kayakers are more vulnerable than canoeists so the decision to wear helmets should reflect this fact.

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Extra information for Grade II water			
Contact with objects	All participants	Helmets must be worn on grade II water.	
Overhanging trees, entrapment and pinning.	All participants	<p>Leader(s) to carry appropriate emergency equipment including saw, knife, throwlines, pulleys, karabiners and prussik loops.</p> <p>Participants to be made aware of the dangers and how to react should it happen.</p> <p>Supervising staff to be trained and experienced in dealing with the situation minimum BCU level 3 Instructor must be present and on the water.</p>	<p>Staff to organise session to minimise the risk.</p> <p>Pre-examination of the site to be carried out prior to the visit.</p>
Locks	All participants	<p>Boats are not to attempt to pass through the locks.</p> <p>Participants to be kept at a reasonable distance from the edge.</p>	Staff supervision to ensure this.

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Weir and sluice	All participants	<p>Staff to inspect these areas before there is any attempt to use them in the session.</p> <p>Ensure that participants are fully aware of the dangers and instructed how to behave and act when using these areas.</p> <p>Shooting of the weir must only be conducted in the presence of a BCU level 3 Instructor, or above.</p> <p>The speed of the water and level of the river must be taken into account before the sluice outlet is used. If the flow reaches grade II then the activity must be overseen by a BCU level 3 Instructor, or above.</p>	