

Blakeney Sailing Club

Risk Assessment for Patrol Boat launch, use and recovery of boats

This Risk Assessment is intended for all Patrol Boat Helms and Crews supporting organised club sailing events. It reviews the main hazards associated with launch, use and recovery of Patrol Boats and details the measures taken to mitigate against them. It is therefore expected that all event participants are aware of these measures and abide with them.

Blakeney Harbour is available for use by anyone at any time, consequently there may be inexperienced adults and children on the water, there are also commercial ferries operating out of Blakeney cut and Morston creek. Blakeney Harbour Association has issued a Good Practice Guide for Blakeney Harbour which should be adhered to by all users.

BSC usually provides a Patrol boat[s] during organised events, which are manned by volunteer amateur crews who are not necessarily trained in first aid or rescue procedures.

The following risks have been identified:

Risk	Control Measures
1. Water environment a. -Drowning b. -Immersion injuries	Personal Buoyancy to be worn at all times on the water. Suitable clothing with regard to weather and water temperatures (wet suit or dry suits between 1 st October and 31 st May). Helm to proceed at appropriate speed at all times.
2. Equipment a. -Propeller, moving parts	Helm to wear kill cord attached to their person. Only helms approved by BSC are permitted to drive patrol boats. Kill engine when in close proximity to person in the water.
3. Manual Handling a. -Moving boats and equipment b. -Launch and recovery	Helms to be aware of local hazards. Particular care to be taken when lifting/lowering the outboard into position on the slipway and the dinghy park.
4. Entrapment a. Sailor becoming trapped	Prompt action required, right the boat as quickly as possible using dagger board, mast or any appropriate safe means.
5. Generic Hazards a. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sunburn b. Hypothermia, dehydration c. Wind chill exacerbating hypothermia	Appropriate clothing, sunscreen, adequate hydration. Minimise casualty exposure to wind, wet and cold. Space blankets are available. Lapwing, (committee boat) is a safe haven - See Note 1.
6. Slipping, tripping, falling	Appropriate footwear to be worn

	Exercise due care on the slipway during launching.
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Note 1

Sudden, unexpected immersion in cold water below 15 C is potentially dangerous. The coastal and inland waters of the UK remain cold all year round and a peak of drowning deaths often occurs in the summer, as the hot weather tempts people into the cold water. The effects of the cold water mean that even healthy individuals, who are good swimmers, can still drown within a short period of time, often only a few feet from the shore. Be aware of one minute – one degree rule. If the water is 10'C you can assume you have 10 minutes to get the individual out of the water. Rough handling of the individual in the rescue is dangerous, handle carefully, lift them out horizontally, wrap in space blankets to prevent further heat loss. Shield individual from cooling effect from wind, e.g. returning to shore in speeding Patrol Boats.