

Blakeney Sailing Club

Work parties

This Risk Assessment is intended for all organised Work Parties. It reviews the main hazards associated with these activities and details the measures taken to mitigate against them. It is expected that all event participants are aware of these measures and abide with them.

The following risks have been identified:

Risk	Control Measures
1. Serious injury from working at height due to falls during use of ladders or other equipment above ground level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladders or other equipment to be safe to use and properly secured. • Keep work area free of trip hazards, especially ropes. • If possible Work Parties to be made up of at least two people but if working alone take extra care and always carry a phone to summon help if required.
2. Injury associated with committee boat (Lapwing) during move onto anchorage and back to the quay (Blakeney or Morston), lifting in and out and use of trailer to and from winter quarters – falls, crush injuries and risk of hypothermia in cold weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communication to be maintained between all members of working party. • Personal flotation devices (PFD) worn by all in working party. • Wet suit, dry suit and clothes appropriate to the risk of falling in the water to be worn. • All towing and mechanical lifting both in and out to be carried out by 3rd party professionals qualified to do the work and using appropriate equipment designed to carry out the task. • All fixtures and fitting to be in safe condition, if found unsafe to be repaired as soon as possible. • Management of hypothermia should a worker fall into the water requires specialist first aid knowledge. Space blankets are kept in the patrol boats, Lapwing and in Club Hut - see Note 1
3. Injuries associated with putting out race marks in the spring and collecting them in the autumn - crush injuries, back sprain/injury and risk of hypothermia in cold weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communication to be maintained between all members of working party. • PFD's worn by all in working party. • Wet suit, dry suit and clothes appropriate to the risk of falling in the water to be worn. • Manual handling techniques to be used for lifting and two people to lift each buoy when on land. • Each person who engages in lifting should be satisfied they are in good health to do so

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of hypothermia should a worker fall into the water requires specialist first aid knowledge. Space blankets are kept in the patrol boats, Lapwing and in Club Hut - see note 1
<p>4. Injury associated with moving the hut at the beginning and end of each season - crush injuries, back sprain/injury.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communication to be maintained between all members of working party. • Manual handling techniques to be used for lifting. • Where a telehandler or equivalent is used for lifting the hut the operator must be a suitably qualified person. Strops and straps are to be rated appropriately for the task in hand and inspected for wear prior to use. A trailer capable of carrying the load is to be used and the tow vehicle must be rated for the weight being towed • Each person who engages in lifting should be satisfied they are in good health to do so.
<p>5. Injury associated with moving the Patrol Boats and outboards at the beginning and end of the season - crush injuries, back sprain/injury.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communication to be maintained between all members of working party. • Manual handling techniques to be used for lifting. In respect to the outboards, two people must be involved at all times in lifting and handling • Each person who engages in lifting should be satisfied they are in good health to do so.
<p>6. Injury associated with incorrect use of tools and equipment including electrical equipment, especially outside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each person using tools and equipment to be aware of the risks, to be competent in the use of the tools and equipment and to take appropriate steps to safeguard themselves and others. • All mains powered electrical tools to be protected by the use of an RCD or equivalent.
<p>7. Injury or drowning as a result of becoming cut off from safe access to the closest land during walks to the harbour at low tide to inspect ground tackle at low tide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of two people to be involved and a phone is essential. Awareness of tide times and the safe times the walk can take place is crucial. • The use of appropriate clothing is essential (e.g. waders, drysuit, wetsuit) at almost any time of year even in the hottest time of the year. Immersion in cold water can be fatal – see Note 1 below • Each person involved is to ensure their fitness level is adequate to undertake what can be strenuous walking conditions

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.