

Risk Assessment on Red Watch

Many organisations will need to conduct their own risk assessment in order to ensure that their particular criteria are met.

Access to Red Watch for this purpose can be arranged at no cost.

The following is offered not as an all encompassing Risk Assessment but simply as a starting point.

'Practice' column identifies the project's current practice to minimise the risk. Application is through training, pre-trip talk, code of practice & appropriate supervision.

Hazard(s)	Potential Risk(s)	Level of risk (compared to 'normal')	Practice
General:- applicable to all those on board			
Galley:- hot surfaces & foods; sharp knives, glasses etc.	burns and/or scalds; cuts to hands	normal	normal level of care/supervision
Badly stored or prepared food, dirty utensils, crockery etc.	food poisoning	slightly higher	refrigerator protocols, careful washing up etc.
Unfamiliar surroundings	everyday bumps, trips, falls etc.	slightly higher	keep walkways & access areas clear
Embarkation & disembarkation	trips & falls	slightly higher	secure mooring, use of ramps etc.
Falling overboard while under way	injury from boat, swallowing river water, drowning	slightly higher for the inexperienced	no walking along gunwales no deliberate jumping in or pushing in
Crush between boat & bridges, locks, tunnels	bruising & crush injury	slightly higher for the inexperienced	no use of gunwales, or legs/arms over side
Wet floors (inevitable in wet weather)	slips & falls	normal - decks and internal floors (mostly carpetted) are anti-slip	no running, mopping as necessary
Skippers and Crew:- whether project volunteers or user group members			
Frequent alighting & embarking at locks etc.	trips, slips & falls; crush between boat & bank	slightly higher for the inexperienced	step on/off stationary boat if possible use stern/fore deck or port side access rather than gunwales
Operating lock gates	strains, back injury	slightly higher for the inexperienced	use correct technique
Falling in while operating locks	crush between boat & lock, swallowing river water, being flushed into sluices, drowning	slightly higher for the inexperienced	no running, higher level of care/supervision
Operating lock paddles	injury to hands	slightly higher for the inexperienced	always use safety catches
Using wet lock ladders	injury from spinning (or flying) windlass	slightly higher for the inexperienced	always remove windlass when not in use
	slips & falls; crush between boat & bank	slightly higher for the inexperienced	position boat with stern deck below ladder only allow capable, confident crew to use if in doubt, bring boat in to landing stage
Falling overboard while pulling on ropes	crush between boat and bank, swallowing river water	slightly higher for the inexperienced	always pull against fixed point (e.g. 'T' stud)
Clearing rubbish from propeller	injury from propeller if allowed to turn	slightly higher for the inexperienced	always stop engine and remove key
	injury from sharp objects, fishing hooks etc.	slightly higher	use tools provided (rather than just hands)
Carers:- applicable specifically to those caring for others			
Lifting disabled people e.g. onto toilet	strains, back injury	normal	assistance available
Lifting people after falls etc.	strains, back injury	normal	assistance available
Embarkation & disembarkation with wheelchairs	strains, back injury	normal	assistance available
Major Incidents:-			
Collisions with other boats, bank, bridges etc.	falls, injury from movement of unsecured objects	low - collisions invariably at low speed	always supervise inexperienced steerers
Fire	burns, trips and falls as a result of panic behaviour	slightly higher	controlled evacuation procedure (to bank)
	injuries associated with falling in		
Sinking while operating locks	crush between boat & lock, swallowing river water, being flushed into sluices, drowning	very low - always results from multiple, major errors	careful supervision and strict adherence to code of practice