



Generic Risk Assessment



Factors:

- Truro Canoe Club activity is conducted on the Truro, Tresillian and Ruan Rivers and the River Fal.
- These waterways are tidal estuaries with a generally southerly aspect; in places they are up to 300m wide.
- Significant parts of these waterways can be classed as 'open water' where conditions more similar to sea than river can prevail.
- The confluence of these rivers can create turbulent water movements at certain points.
- Access to and egress from these rivers is difficult for much of their length; this generates the problem of 'remoteness' very quickly.
- At certain states of the tide large areas of uncrossable mud are exposed.
- Mobile phone coverage is unpredictable and patchy by nature of the terrain.
- There is considerable leisure and commercial water traffic, some of which does not understand the effects of wash on racing kayaks.
- Marathon racing kayaks are inherently unstable, cannot be rolled and deep-water re-entry is difficult even with assistance.
- In the event of capsizing, these kayakers have little inherent buoyancy and paddlers' only resort is to make for the shore to empty out.
- On-water activity is conducted year round; water temperatures can range from 6 to 20 degrees Centigrade

Date carried out	17 Apr 18	Carried out by		Bill Sharpe
RISK		MITIGATION		REVIEW
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?	Review comments / Review date
Drowning	Paddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing of buoyancy aids compulsory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buoyancy aids tested regularly 	

	Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction in capsize procedures • Paddlers must be able to swim at least 100m in light clothing • Relevant supervision for novices • Group cohesion should be maintained at all times with no individuals allowed to lose contact • Advised to keep away from river bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction sessions for beginners and new members • Supervisors to ensure buoyancy aid correctly fitted. • Regular checks on equipment 	
Cold water shock	Paddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All paddlers to be aware of risk • Appropriate clothing to be worn and procedures to be followed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of water temperature 	
Hypothermia	Paddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised on the correct clothing to wear • Adjustment to clothing as required • Shelter and dry, warm clothing to be available on return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous dynamic risk assessment 	
Slips trips and falls	Paddlers and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of landing stages, slipway and river bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous dynamic risk assessment 	

Sprains, strains and soft tissue injury	Paddlers Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged to paddle correctly • Trained to lift correctly • Ask for help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing training and regular checks of procedures • Awareness 	
Pollution and water quality	Paddlers Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised to bathe soon after session • Made aware of contaminated flotsam and mud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore dry launching/landing options 	
Other river users	Paddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers instructed to be aware of other river users and how to take appropriate/avoiding action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue maintained with Harbour Master and Enterprise Ferries 	
Weather	Paddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate weather forecasts available • Early notification of cancellation or changes to activity 		
Tide	Paddlers Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity planned around predicted tides • Times of greatest tide flow avoided 		
Obstructions	Paddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers advised to keep clear of buoys, posts, shallows, trees and abandoned hulks 		
Traffic	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All advised to park appropriately and move 		

		with care around car park		
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- Risk mitigation protocols are to be observed at all times. Key protocols are:
 - Buoyancy aids are to be worn at all times.
 - Activity should only take place when conditions are suitable.
 - Group cohesion should be maintained at all times with no individuals allowed to lose contact with the group.
 - In the event of conditions or circumstances changing during an activity session, the decision and direction of the most qualified or experienced person present will be followed by all.