

Safety Report for NRC Executive January 2024

Annual Safety Audits

All racing clubs have completed their audits.

Launch Incident

Recently a coach fell out of his launch. Some important lessons have come from this.

- All lifejackets should have crotch straps except those used by coxes in bow-loaders and those (usually buoyancy aids) which are not designed to have crotch straps.
- A tinfish should not be considered a rescue boat, although in an emergency it may be better than nothing.
- Consider what you do if there are no other launches on the river, e.g. if you are coaching the last crew in that session.
- If the casualty is likely to be in the water in winter for more than ten minutes, call 999. Even if he is rescued by other rowers or coaches, he is likely to need medical treatment for hypothermia.

Phones

Any crew out alone should carry a phone in a waterproof cover. Groups of crews should ensure that they have a phone, ideally two so that if one falls in, the other can call for help. Help was summoned for the incident above by the cox of one of the crews being coached.

Hatch Covers

Where a hatch cover should be fitted, it must be fitted. Small holes or splits in a hatch cover can be temporarily repaired with gaffer tape; a replacement hatch cover should be obtained as soon as possible. It is not acceptable to use gaffer tape to cover a missing hatch cover.

Boat Checks

It is the owner's responsibility to check that their boat is fit for use. Boats should be checked before every outing, whether in racing or training. Beginners and Juniors should do the checks under the supervision of their coaches.

Collisions

Collisions are still the major cause of injury and damage in rowing; please keep a good lookout (ideally every 5 strokes for coxless boats) and keep to the correct side of the river.

RowSafe Updates

RowSafe is updated every year in April. If you have any suggestions for changes to the document, please let me know or contact safety@britishrowing.org

BR Safety Reports and Alerts

BR issues safety reports monthly and safety alerts when needed. I circulate these on the Northern Rowing group northernrowing@googlegroups.com If you want to stay up-to-date, please join this group. If you have any questions on any issues raised in the reports or alerts, please feel free to contact me.

If you want further information on any of the above, please contact me.

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