



Washburn Risk Assessments



Activity: Open cruise on the River Washburn - WYCC

Description: WYCC – Rafting try it Sessions

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Likelihood (1=Low, 5=High)	Severity (1=Low, 5=High)	Control measures
Manual handling in set up/ take down of rafts	Event volunteers	2	3	All volunteers to be aware of and use good manual handling techniques when carrying equipment for setting up events
Fast rising water during water release	Public, paddlers, Rafters	3	3	Release results in a steadily increasing water level rather than a very rapid flooding of the river bed. Event organiser to walk from Woodyard to main car park prior to release to check river bed is clear of people.
Carrying rafts	Rafters	2	2	Paddlers given information un raft briefing on correct carrying techniques of raft using handles and grab points
Capsizing	Paddlers, particularly inexperienced paddlers	3	3	All Paddlers are notified prior to the event and at event the river is a fast flowing white water river that is not suitable for novice paddlers and that Canoeing is an 'assumed risk sport'. Actual river conditions to be managed on the day by the amount of water released by Yorkshire Water. All paddlers to wear appropriate protective equipment including Buoyancy Aid and helmet. Rafters given safety briefing before getting on the water including correct swimming techniques and how they will be rescued if they do fall in. Rafters given instructions on how to look after themselves in the event of an all out of the raft or the guide falling out.
Being struck by other paddlers equipment (Boat / Paddle)	Rafters	2	3	All paddlers are notified that the river is not suitable for novice paddlers and that Canoeing is an 'assumed risk sport' both prior to the event and on payment. All paddlers to wear appropriate protective equipment including Buoyancy Aid and helmet.



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Been struck by paddles from other rafters	Rafters	4	3	During Safety Briefing on the bank rafters are given instruction on what to do with their paddles, and not to let go of the 'T' piece. Guides to be alert and remind rafters on the way down of the importance of keeping hands on paddles.
Entanglement in trees and other obstacles	Rafters	2	4	All paddlers are notified that the river is not suitable for novice paddlers and that Canoeing is an 'assumed risk sport' both prior to the event and on payment. Paddlers to use standard river leadership and undertake dynamic risk assessment to identify and respond to hazards in good time. Trees that have fallen into / across river to be identified by pre-release river walk and hazard notified to paddlers when paying fees and by a notice at the get in point.
Hypothermia	Rafters	2	4	All paddlers to wear usual protective clothing / equipment for river paddling appropriate to the conditions / weather (e.g. wetsuit / drysuit or similar). To include Buoyancy Aid and helmet.
Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)	Rafters	1	4	All paddlers to be aware of the risk and follow standard practice of covering cuts etc, and that Canoeing is an 'assumed risk sport' both prior to the event and on payment. (Fresh water and fast flowing river make the site a low risk)
Slips, Trips, Falls	Paddlers, event volunteers, public, Rafters	2	2	Riverside path maintained by Yorkshire Water. Any hazard identified during an event to be made safe or cordoned off and reported to Yorkshire Water.
Being struck by moving vehicles	Paddlers, event volunteers, public, Rafters	2	3	Traffic moving around the site is subject to speed restrictions and the car park is organized to limit the requirement for crossing the main thoroughfare whilst carrying equipment etc (Some crossing is required to the Toilets etc due to the original layout of the site beyond our control).



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Putting rafts on trailer / transportation of rafts	Rafters, Paddlers	2	2	Correct lifting techniques to be used to lift the rafts on to the trailer. Ropes/straps to be used to tie the rafts on from the ends onto the trailer.

Review by: Rich Cooke - WYCC

Date: April 2016

Review / re-assessment due: April 2017