



Washburn Risk Assessments



Activity: Open cruise on the River Washburn

Description: Setting up and running a river cruise event on the

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Likelihood (1=Low, 5=High)	Severity (1=Low, 5=High)	Control measures
Manual handling in event set up/ take down	Event volunteers	2	3	All volunteers to be aware of and use good manual handling techniques when carrying equipment for setting up events
Erecting / dismantling marquees/gazebos	Event volunteers	2	2	Volunteers to be briefed on keeping clear of moving parts on gazebos.
High winds moving marquees / gazebos	Paddlers, event volunteers, public	2	4	Event organizers to ensure marquees / gazebos are adequately secured / weighted down. Additional anchor points for marquees/gazebos available on toilet block and bedrock. Marquees / gazebos to be taken down in the event of high winds.
Fast rising water during water release	Public, paddlers	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 kayaks / canoes	Paddlers	2	2	Paddlers are familiar with appropriate manual handling for carrying their equipment. Team lifting / carrying as required. Juniors to be assisted as appropriate by coaches / parents.
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. Coaches / Group leaders to be familiar with appropriate techniques for rescuing paddlers in white water (in line with BC guidelines)



Washburn Risk Assessments



Hazard	Who might be harmed	Likelihood (1=Low, 5=High)	Severity (1=Low, 5=High)	Control measures
Being struck by other paddlers equipment (Boat / Paddle)	Paddlers	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.
Entanglement in trees and other obstacles	Paddlers	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	Paddlers	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)	Paddlers	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	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	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).



Washburn Risk Assessments



Hazard	Who might be harmed	Likelihood (1=Low, 5=High)	Severity (1=Low, 5=High)	Control measures
Catering – burns / scalds	Event volunteers	2	2	Kitchen to be set up to minimise risk. Event organiser to minimise access to catering area.
Catering – food preparation	Event volunteers, paddlers, public	2	2	Event organiser to ensure food preparation adheres to recognized standards
High Water Levels reducing clearance for paddlers under footbridges	Paddlers / Officials / Public	1	4	If water is coming over all 5 spillways on the dam, inspection of the headroom under footbridges to be done. If there is a risk of paddlers hitting the bridge with their head or catching their paddlers the event will be stopped.
High water levels flooding the path and car park (due to exceptional rainfall)	All	1	3	If water is coming over all 5 spillways on the dam, inspection of the site (path and get on) and checking the weather forecast will be required. If water is (or is about to) flow over the path the event will be cancelled until levels subside. Consideration to be given to clearing the site.

Review by: Les Ford

Date: updated 19th December 2016

Review / re-assessment due: December 2017