

SAFETY ALERT

Contact: safety@britishcanoeing.org.uk

SUBJECT	COASTGUARD Notifying the Coastguard of your plans/journey and What response you can expect if you fail to confirm your safe arrival
Date Issued	August 2018

Subject: **Sea Paddling**
New advice and practise from HM Coastguard

If you contact the Coastguard and notify them of your planned activities/journey they refer to this as a Traffic Report.

Logging you activities or journey is voluntary but HM Coastguard would like paddlers going out on the sea to call in every time to pass on their intentions.

There is no legal requirement to do this but if you think your activity may cause concern to a member of the public i.e. rescue training, reduced visibility, worsening sea state/weather conditions, vehicles with roof racks left at harbours while on multiple day expedition's etc. then they would encourage you to contact your local Coastguard Operations Centre.

The information required is: -

Required Information

Callsign
Departing from
Destination
Intended route
ETA (estimated time of arrival)
Number in group
Type of craft and safety equipment carried
Means of contact (mobile phone/VHF)
Vehicles (where left, type and registrations)

NOTE * It is important to note that at the end of your activity/journey, should you fail to notify the Coastguard that you have returned safely, this will NOT trigger a Search and Rescue call out.

A Search and Rescue call out will only be triggered if a call is received from a 3rd party who actively reports you as missing or overdue or if you place an emergency call yourself.

Cont.

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How to notify HM Coastguard and log a Traffic Report (TR)

Mobile phone or VHF radio.

Both are good methods of passing information but remember if you use your VHF radio to pass TR then you are also testing your Vhf radio for transmitting and receiving traffic

When is Search and Rescue action executed?

SAR action will only be conducted when there has been a trigger point.

Normally this will be caused by a report from a concerned third party (member of public, shore contact, another mariner) or due to a direct request from the paddler themselves.

Shore Contacts

Previously HM Coastguard has maintained a database which was voluntarily completed online by vessels/skippers/paddlers, called CG66.

CG66 stopped accepting new information on the 11th of July 2018, the existing information will still be retained for 2 years after which time it will be removed.

CG66 has been superseded by the RYA Safe Trx.

<https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge-advice/safe-boating/keep-in-touch/Pages/safetrx.aspx>

It's a free service to register your information and HM Coastguard has access to this information for SAR purposes.

In Summary

HM Coastguard wants everyone who logs a TR to close it down with a follow up call.

Failing to close a TR will NOT initiate a search.

If you require assistance you must be able to call for help.

It is also a good idea to ensure a trusted person can raise an alarm from ashore if you fail to return as planned.

In the event of an emergency, a TR will help HM Coastguard to plan and execute an effective and efficient SAR mission.

By submitting incident reports to British Canoeing you can help us to identify and address issues within the sport. To report an incident go to <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/go-canoeing/incident-reporting>