

Canoe Adventures Risk Assessment

List of hazards (Does not include trivial everyday hazards)	Control measures in place to reduce risk	Arrangements to ensure control measures are effectively implemented
Swamping	Buoyancy aids (BAs) worn. Avoid swamping hazards; standing waves, dangerous wash, and collisions. Bailing buckets to hand.	Equipment check. Daily forecasts known. Lookout underway.
Collision	Follow RULES FOR PREVENTION OF COLLISION AT SEA	Lookout underway. Take suitable action in good time.
Capsize	Capsize recovery training for Skippers. BAs worn. Guest-crew briefing and training exercise on capsize control/action prior to cast-off. VHF carried.	Equipment check. Non-swimmers identified. Guest-crew briefing and training before cast-off. Reminders appropriately.
Medical	Steersmen current First-Aiders and carry first-aid kits. Guest-crew medical info required before boarding; guests instructed to advise in advance of any medical conditions or we assume all others presenting themselves to paddle are medically fit do so. VHF to hand.	Equipment check. First-Aid certificates update logged. First-aid kit resupply routine.
Severe Weather Wind (<30mph, or less with lighter crew). Driving rain. Rain greater risk consideration outside of main summer months.	Postpone departure when possible, cancel or reschedule. Land early. Take shelter. Know emergency landings and access points.	Monitor forecast daily. All Lead Skippers know all-tide landings and access points.
Hours of Darkness (increased risk of collision)	360° steady white LED at flag-head and under bow. Head torch and Beam torch to hand.	Equipment check.
Special Needs	Appropriate ratio of able to special needs guest-crew determined beforehand.	Apply as required.

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Under 18s 1. To ensure weight and strength of crew and 2. To ensure safeguarding policy	Appropriate ratio of adults to youngsters agreed in advance of outing; standard practice being at least one adult known to youngsters per boat.	Apply as required.
Tidal riverbank landings with rocks, mud, seaweed, driftwood, running moorings etc.	Inform and warn guest crew of normal natural slip trip hazards and need for extra personal duty of care.	Repeat warning as appropriate. Assist guests in and out of boat and across shore as necessary.
Oyster shells cutting feet	Footwear to be worn on low tide landings where risk is known, especially swimming or paddling.	Skippers informed of landings with risk. Skippers to observe when landing and report new instances to Company Directors.
Fire & Kelly Kettle, scolds and burns	Fire lighting activity to be led or delegated by Lead Skipper. Only Skippers with previous experience to use Kelly Kettles	Fire lighting activity part of new Skipper induction. Parents/teachers involved in observing their youngsters.

Hal Gillmore and Mark Burton
Directors, Canoe Adventures, April 2025

