

Caledonian Canal Risk Assessment

Activity	Location	Nature of Group	Undertaken by	Date
Caledonian Canal Canoeing and Kayaking	Caledonian Canal Banavie to Inverness	Novice/disabled kayakers/canoers	S.Sims	Dec 2014

Hazard: What could go wrong?	Who to?	Control: What can be done about it?	System: How do you make sure that the control happens?
Injuries whilst loading/unloading kayaks from trailer or carrying kayaks/canoes	All taking part	Sufficient helpers to lift each kayak/canoe. Appropriate lifting techniques used. Ensure all helpers aware when kayaks/canoes moved to avoid trapping fingers etc. Use of trolleys were appropriate.	Staff training Good communication
Water quality	All taking part	Avoid contaminated water by liaison with canal staff. Ensure participants wash hands after kayaking Procedure to avoid Weils Disease	Safety briefing Staff training
Injuries from paddles	All taking part	Awareness of hazard, reinforced at training sessions. Consider helmets if appropriate to group.	Safety briefing Staff training
Capsize	All taking part	Capsize briefing/practice in training sessions Adequate safety support depending on location Buoyancy Aids worn by all kayakers Raft kayaks/canoes where necessary Appropriate means of summoning assistance available (Aberdeen Coastguard VHF channel 16 or 01224 592334)	Safety briefing Training sessions *BCU level III Sea Coach(s) accompanying kayakers at all times VHF contact with RIB and Support Boat, Flares carried by instructors, additional support kayakers if appropriate

<p>Hypothermia/Dehydration/(Heat) Exhaustion</p>	<p>All taking part</p>	<p>Adequate protective clothing for prevailing conditions. Ensure adequate levels of food, drink and rest. Monitor group regularly for signs of stress. First Aid/Group shelter/Spare clothing/hot and cold drinks available</p>	<p>Safety briefing Emergency Equipment available Staff training Support Vessels</p>
<p>Locks</p>	<p>All taking part</p>	<p>Participants will not enter locks. (Empty rafted canoes or kayaks may be taken through locks at discretion of lockkeeper). Avoid area within 10m of lock gates. Care when walking around locks, trip hazards, danger of falling into lock. Adequate help from shore party launching and recovering kayaks/canoes.</p>	<p>Safety Briefing Liaison with canal staff Adequate supervision by shore support at locks.</p>
<p>Other water craft</p>	<p>All taking part</p>	<p>Safety Briefing. Keep careful lookout for other boats in canal Move group to one side if boats approach. Liaison with lock keepers during lock opening times. Support Kayakers to carry VHF, whistles and white flares.</p> <p>Safety Cover – RIB 1:1 Instructor to Double kayak support VHF contact between safety cover and instructors</p>	<p>Safety Briefing Liaison with canal staff Adequate supervision of group</p> <p>Shore party informed of progress. Coastguard informed as required.</p>

<p>Additional Hazards to Visually Impaired Kayakers:</p>			
<p>Trip hazards/collision with trailers, vehicles, kayaks etc on land.</p>	<p>All VI participants</p>	<p>Adequate ‘buddy’ system, careful briefing of all taking part, ensure paths kept clear of equipment, and vehicles moved only when all persons are clear.</p>	<p>Training of helpers. Briefing of all at start of event. Drivers to ensure all persons clear before moving vehicles.</p>
<p>Injuries from paddles</p>	<p>All VI participants</p>	<p>Use of helmets as appropriate. Warn all of dangers of paddle blades, especially when kayaks in close proximity/rafted.</p>	<p>Briefing before activity. Reminders to group when rafting, paddling in close proximity, especially when leaving raft.</p>
<p>Capsize/Swimming</p>	<p>All VI participants</p>	<p>Use of buoyancy aids by all participants. ‘Buddying’ of blind/VI kayakers with sighted paddlers, to offer immediate reassurance and instruction in the event of capsize and swimming</p>	<p>Briefing of ‘buddies’. Instructors to maintain close contact with blind/VI kayakers. Capsize drill in controlled conditions.</p>
<p>Additional Hazards to physically disabled kayakers:</p>			
<p>Entering / exiting kayaks</p>	<p>All physically disabled participants</p>	<p>Adequate land practice, procedures worked for assisting kayakers in different locations/situations (ie jetties, beaches, pontoons). Care of kayaks on rough terrain to be considered also.</p>	<p>Appropriate lifting techniques used in discussion with participants. Prior training of helpers for each location.</p>
<p>Pressure sores/chaffing</p>		<p>Adequate padding and protection installed in kayaks before trip. Individuals to use same kayak each day. Ensure padding does not impede exit of kayak in the event of capsize.</p>	<p>Provide adequate materials for padding and protection. Stress importance of early intervention, regular checking to detect pressure points quickly and treat.</p>

Capsize		Capsize drill discussed and simulated on land before trip. Procedure for re-entry discussed on individual basis. Appropriate kit carried to assist with re entry. Accessible safety boat available, contact maintained by VHF at all times.	Prior staff training and practice using 'disabled' volunteer. Range of techniques available. Practice with rescue boat in different conditions.
Use of hoist	Participants who require to use hoist	Hoist only to be operated by trained AUS staff. Appropriate size of sling to be used. Check all fittings//slings each time before use. Ensure helpers are not impeding hoist or likely to be injured by hoist at all times. Care near edge of jetty/pontoon. All involved to wear Buoyancy Aids.	Staff Training. Regular recorded safety checks on hoist by approved company.

Updated June 2015 by S.Sims