

WARRINGTON ROWING CLUB

EMERGENCY PLANS



ON WATER ACTION PLANS

Boat Capsizes. Crew must stay with and hold onto their boat. If unable to get back in the boat, pull up onto it, clear of water, and wait for assistance from any launch in the area. Otherwise stay with boat but manoeuvre it to the bank area where possible in order to egress dry land. If able, try to secure boat and head to clubhouse quickly for warmth. If unable, then use whatever methods available to summon help. Rescue times must be minimised, recognising 'One minute - One-degree rule' to prevent hypothermia. Hot showers are available in the clubhouse.

Rower Overboard. This assumes the boat is still upright, crew stops the boat as soon as possible and backs down to allow the rower to climb back into the boat. Depending on the weather conditions, a decision is made whether to continue the outing, or return to the clubhouse as soon as possible.

Rower injured or suddenly unwell. If a launch is in the vicinity, the rower should be transferred to the launch and returned to the clubhouse as soon as possible. If no launch available, and rower is capable of sitting upright, the crew should row back to the clubhouse. If this is not possible, crew should manoeuvre to the bank and attempt to get the rower out of the boat, then use whatever methods available to summon help.

Unexpected Thunderstorm. All crews on the water are to return to the landing stage and seek shelter in the boathouse, clubhouse or a fully closed vehicle.

Launch Driver Overboard. All launch drivers secure a kill-cord to their leg at start of an outing, thus in the event of capsizing or falling overboard, the motor would cut out.

Motor catches fire. Use powder extinguisher, to put out the fire. If motor inoperable, use mobile phone to call help. If upstream of boathouse use paddle to steer a course back to the boathouse. If downstream of boathouse, attempt to steer to the bank and hold fast until help arrives.

Access Points. In the event of a rower being injured or becoming ill whilst rowing, the quickest and most reliable means of rescue and access to the emergency services is by launch. The only vehicular access point close to the river is at the club house landing stage (Howley Lane - WA1 2DN or <https://what3words.com/jukebox.chill.noises>).

ON LAND ACTION PLANS

Fire in Clubhouse. A smoke detector would be triggered to sound the fire alarm. The current assembly point is the area to the left of the slipway. However, if the wind direction is from the NE, an alternative area will be specified.

Rower injured or suddenly unwell. If minor in nature, first aid boxes are available in the gym and the clubhouse. If slightly more serious, next of kin should be contacted to collect the individual. If very serious, emergency services should be contacted. If the individual becomes unconscious, use of the defibrillator should be considered.

Nearest Hospital. Individuals requiring hospital treatment will be taken to Warrington Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington WA5 1QG.

Mike Selway
Club Safety Adviser