

British Divers Marine Life Rescue Risk Assessment



Risk Assessment title / number: Seal rescue / BDMLR02

Risk Assessment Date 14.03.22

Risk Assessment Review Date 14.03.23

Risk Assessment Author: Daniel Jarvis

How this Risk Assessment works

Risk is a combination of the potential accident SEVERITY resulting in death, serious injury, minor injury etc. and the likelihood of that accident occurring i.e. very unlikely up to almost certain.

The risks are calculated using the 5 Gate Risk Matrix below where Hazards are identified and an INITIAL RISK is calculated. Control Measures are then put in place to eliminate, or reduce the initial risk and then recalculated as the RESIDUAL RISK. This residual risk should be considered ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable)

This Risk Assessment should be considered as a generic assessment and has tried to take into account as many hazards as can be considered foreseeable within our threshold of operations.

Safety is the responsibility of each individual attending an incident and a site specific Risk

Assessment should be carried out for each task required to be undertaken.

ALL PERSONNEL MUST FOLLOW CURRENT COVID 19 GUIDELINES, AND HAVE 2 NEGATIVE TESTS PRIOR TO TRAVELING

NUMERICAL VALUE	LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY
1	Very Unlikely	Minor Injury with no time off work
2	Unlikely	Injury and/or up to 3 days off work
3	Likely	Injury resulting in over 3 days off work
4	Very Likely	Major Injury resulting in long term absence
5	Certain	Death

Likelihood

5	5	10	15	20	26
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

Severity

Task	Hazard	L	S	IR	Risk Controls	L	S	RR
Travelling to/from incident location	Vehicle accident due to:							
	>Other vehicles	2	5	10	Drive defensively	2	3	6
	>Weather conditions	3	3	9	Drive within limits of weather conditions	2	2	4
	>Road conditions	3	4	12	Drive within limits of road conditions	2	3	6
	>Over speeding	4	5	20	Do not exceed speed limit	1	3	3
	>Pedestrians	3	5	10	Be aware of pedestrians	1	5	5
Breakdown		3	1	3	Ensure vehicle in good condition; contact breakdown service	1	1	1
Getting lost		4	1	4	Plan route or use of map/Satnav system; have a form of communication available to call for help (e.g. mobile phone, VHF radio, access to landline)	2	1	2

Task	Hazard	L	S	IR	Risk Controls	L	S	RR	
Access/egress to location	Fall from height:								
	>Access via steep path/slope	4	4	16	Wear helmet; utilise experienced climbing team/Coastguard	2	1	2	
	>Access via vertical cliff face	4	5	20	Wear helmet; utilise experienced climbing team/Coastguard	2	1	2	
	>Access over large rocks	4	4	16	Wear helmet; maintain three points of contact	2	2	4	
	Slips/trips/falls:								
	>Wet grass	4	4	16	Ensure suitable footwear worn	3	2	6	
	>Wet/loose rocks/shingle/sand	4	4	16	Ensure suitable footwear worn; maintain three points of contact	3	2	6	
	>Soft mud	4	3	12	Use of buddy line to be considered	2	1	2	
	>Uneven/slippery surfaces	4	3	12	Ensure suitable footwear worn; identify safest route; maintain three points of contact	3	2	6	
	Stuck in substrate:								
	>Soft sand	3	3	9	Use specialist equipment/Coastguard or Fire Service	1	1	1	
	>Soft mud	4	3	12	Use specialist equipment/Coastguard or Fire Service	2	2	4	
	Manual handling		3	4	12	Use correct manual handling techniques; use teamwork and/or mechanical aids	2	2	4
	Sea and weather conditions:								
	>Tides/heavy swell/breaking waves	4	4	16	Avoid working near water's edge; assess need for lifejacket; check tide times and safe access points	3	2	6	
>Wind	4	4	16	Wear weather appropriate clothing	2	2	4		
>Precipitation/ice	4	3	12	Wear weather appropriate clothing	2	2	4		
>Sun	3	3	9	Wear weather appropriate clothing within guidelines of PPE for animal handling; apply sunscreen; limit exposure time; stay hydrated	2	2	4		
>Temperature extremes	3	4	12	Wear weather appropriate clothing within guidelines of PPE for animal handling; limit exposure time; stay hydrated	2	2	4		
>Darkness	4	4	16	Use torches/head torches/vehicle headlights	2	2	4		
Getting lost		4	1	4	Plan route or use map/Satnav system; identify a form of communication is available to call for help (e.g. mobile phone with signal, VHF radio, access to landline)	2	1	2	

Task	Hazard	L	S	IR	Risk Controls	L	S	RR
Animal handling	Seal pup capture and restraint	4	4	16	Use PPE and capture methods as taught in training materials; seek help from experienced team members; assess if seal is of a size safe to be handled by one or more volunteers; encourage animal to move to a safer area to handle safely	3	3	9

	Seal finger	3	4	12	Clean wound with clean water and antibacterial wash; use clean dressing to apply pressure and elevate wound to stop bleeding; ensure patient attends GP surgery or hospital at earliest opportunity for further wound care and prescription of medication as directed by BDMLR seal bite letter (available on website and in MMM Handbook)	2	3	6
	Zoonotic disease and biohazards	2	4	8	Wear PPE as taught in training materials; minimise contact with bodily fluids; clean and disinfect clothing and equipment after use; wash and disinfect hands before eating/drinking; in event of symptoms patient must attend GP surgery or hospital at earliest opportunity for prescription of medication as directed by BDMLR zoonotic disease letter (available on website and in MMM Handbook)	1	3	3
	Large/adult seals	4	5	20	Use PPE and capture methods as taught in training materials; seek help from experienced team members; only handle if suitable number of team members and appropriate specialist equipment available; encourage animal to move to a safer area to handle safely; only lift and carry weight appropriate for ability of team or use mechanical aids	2	4	8
	Euthanasia: >Ballistics	2	5	10	Only trained/qualified personnel to conduct euthanasia via ballistic method (e.g.: SSPCA, RSPCA, veterinarian); Police/Coastguard to attend for public safety; animal to be firmly contained where necessary; team members to vacate to safe area; apply euthanasia method as advised in MMM Handbook	1	5	5
	>Chemical	2	5	10	Only veterinarians to conduct euthanasia by chemical administration; animal to be firmly contained where necessary; apply euthanasia method as advised in MMM Handbook; patient must attend GP surgery or hospital immediately if direct contact with chemical	1	5	5
	Other chemical administration: >Needle sticks	2	3	6	Needle covers to remain on at all times except during use; animal to be firmly contained/restrained; use safe resheathing method; if needle has been used patient must attend GP surgery or hospital at earliest opportunity	1	3	3
	>Accidental chemical administration to handler	2	4	8	Needle covers to remain on at all times except during use; animal to be firmly contained/restrained; use safe resheathing method; patient must attend GP surgery or hospital at earliest opportunity	1	4	4