**British Divers Marine Life Rescue**
**Risk Assessment**

***Risk Assessment Title: Events and training courses
Risk Assessment Number: BDMLR/ETC
Date: 01/04/25 Date of Review 1/5/26
Risk Assessment Author: C McFadyen***

**How this Risk Assessment works:**
Risk is a combination of the potential accident *SEVERITY* which may be in terms of injury, reputation or economic damage (i.e. resulting in death, serious or minor injury etc) and the *LIKELIHOOD* of that accident occuring (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, reduce or mitigate the initial risk and this is then recalculated as the residual risk. This residual risk should be considered as **ALARP** ( **A**s **L**ow **A**s **R**easonably **P**ractical).

This Risk Assessment should be considered as a generic assessment and has tried to take into account as many hazards as can be considered forseeable 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.

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| Numerical Value | Likelihood | Severity |
| 1 | Very Unlikely | Negligible -Minor Injury with no time off work |
| 2 | Unlikely | Minor - Injury and/or up to 3 days off work |
| 3 | Likely | Moderate - Injury resulting in over 3 days off work |
| 4 | Very Likely | Major - Major injury resulting in incapacitence or long term absence |
| 5 | Certain | Catastrophic - Death |



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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Travel to & from event | Vehicle accident due to:* Other vehicles
* Weather Conditions
* Road Conditions
* Over speeding
* pedestrians
 | Attending volunteers and other road users.Injury or death through road traffic accident | **2****3****3****4****2** | **5****5****4****5****5** | **10****15****12****20****10** | Drive DefensivelyDrive within limits of weather and road conditionsDo not exceed speed limitBe aware of pedestrians and other road users | **2****2****3****1****1** | **3****2****3****4****5** | **6****4****6****4****5** |
|  | Breakdown | Attending volunteers.Injury through accident cause by breakdown, Exposure caused by stranding in poor weather conditions. | **3** | **1** | **3** | Ensure vehicle is properly maintained. Contact Coordinators or road rescue bodies to assist with safe recovery. | **1** | **1** | **1** |
|  | Getting lost | Attending Medics.Injury or exposure due to vehicle getting stuck or in unsuitable locations | **4** | **2** | **8** | Plan route or use satnav | **2** | **2** | **4** |

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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Vehicle Access/Egress to location | * Vehicle pedestrian accident
 | Attending medics, other services, general public.Driving offroad in strange conditions may prove distracting with other users around the vehicle | **3** | **5** | **15** | Vehicle use on event sites should be limited to periods when public are not present and then only in nominated areas.Special attention given by driver and very slow speeds used to mitigate awareness from others.Ideally a banksman should be used to help direct and ask pedestrians to move. | **2** | **4** | **8** |
| Access/egress to location | Slips/trips due to:* Wet grass
* Wet rocks
* Soft mud
* Loose Sand
* Loose Shingles
 | Attending medics, local volunteers, other agencies and public.Injury, including fractures, contusions and head injuries through falls and collision with other objects. | **4****4****3****3****4** | **4****5****3****3****4** | **16****20****9****9****16** | Ensure suitable, supporting footwear is worn, check area for most suitable route and remove/avoid trip hazards, ensure helmets are worn if rocks are a danger.ensure suitable visibility. | **2****2****2****2****2** | **2****3****2****2****3** | **4****6****4****4****6** |
|  | Stuck in substrate:* Soft Sand
* Soft Mud
 | Attending Medics and course delegates, Other agencies and local volunteers, public bystanders.Soft tissue injury in pulling free, exposure and risk of drowning if quicksand or stuck in a tidal area. | **3****4** | **4****5** | **12****20** | Use specialist support from Fire and Rescue or Coastguard in affected areas, consider specialized vehicles and buddy system to ensure no one is unaccounted for, temporary walkway/boards for traversing dangerous substrates.Consider placing a suitable cordon to limit access to dangerous areas for public. | **1****1** | **3****4** | **3****4** |
|  | Manual handling injuries | Attending Medics, local volunteersSoft tissue injury, back injuries and falls from overloading | **3** | **3** | **9** | Use correct manual handling techniques. Ensure sufficient team members for lifting and/or use of mechanical aids. | **2** | **2** | **4** |
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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Assessment/First Aid of the Cetacean | Conditions on site:* Heavy Surf
* Under Currents
* Substrate
* Tidal Conditions
* Water temperature
* Wind Chill
* Visibility
 | Attending Medics, other agencies and local volunteers,Risk of drowning, hypothermia and exposure and injury from collisions in surf. | **4****3****4****3****5****4****2** | **4****4****3****4****4****3****4** | **16****12****12****12****20****12****8** | Rescue boat cover if possible, rescue ropes to be available.Water entry only if appropriate water suit and lifejacket are correctly wornBuddy system and beachmaster to watch for signs of exposure/hypothermia and volunteers to be rotatated as often as suitable to allow warming up. Consider requesting lighting support from Coastguard | **3****2****3****2****4****3****2** | **2****2****2****1****2****2****2** | **6****4****6****2****8****6****4** |

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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Event and public relations | Managing Public and Media:* Emotional Response
* Threat of violence/Abuse
 | Attending Medics, other agencies Risk of reputational damage, false media claims, emotional attack on attending volunteers,  | **5****5****4****3****4** | **33****3****3****2** | **15****15****12****9****8** | Awareness from event staff that discussion could prove emotive, either form wildlife supporters misunderstanding the need for euthanasis when it happens or from fishers angered by seal populations. Tolerance and patience in discussing with the public, knowing when to hand over discussion to a colleague or coordinator. | **3****3****2****2** | **2****2****3****2** | **6****6****6****4** |
|  | Rescue Team management::* Communication
* Missing team member
* Personnel Injury
 | Attending medics, local volunteers, other agencies Confusion/missed communication leading to increase in likelihood or severity of other hazards. Serious injury to medic going unrecognized due to unnoticed absence. | **5****5****3** | **3****5****4** | **15****25****12** | Appoint a beach master, log in/out all personnel in cordon area and regular head count.Identify first aiders and first aid kits and ensure these are identified to all personnel. | **1****2****2****2** | **3****3****3****3** | **3****6****6****6** |
|  | Rescue Team Welfare:* Drowning
* Exhaustion
* Hypothermia
* Dehydration
* Heatstroke
* Hunger
* Sanitation
* Emotional stress
* Personal medical issues
 | Attending Medics, Other agencies and local volunteers,Around water, risk of drowning risks around exposure to elements and of extreme emotional responses. Even on stalls, weather can cause exposure related issues and rota of volunteers should be encouraged. | **4****4****3****3****3****2****2****4****3** | **5****3****4****4****4****3****3****3****5** | **20****12****12****12****12****6****6****12****15** | All personnel entering or working over water must wear suitable protective suits and lifejacket. Rescue Boat present where possible.Personnel should be rotated regularly to prevent tiredness, food and water and safe area to rest should be provided along with access to toilet facilities wherever possible.Personnel need to deal with emotions should be respected and ability to discuss issues/talk about events encouraged after the end of incident.Request that any additional health issues disclosed to Beachmaster to allow requirements to be built into rota/schedule. | **2****2****2****3****2****3****2****3****3** | **5****2****3****2****3****2****2****2****2** | **10****10****6****6****6****6****4****6****6** |
|  | Use of Displays and stands:* Manual handling injuries
* Head Injury
* Trip/fall
* Electrical shock

 | Attending medics, other agencies and general public.Risk from heavy displays and equipment, improperly set up displays, cables, bag straps and other trip hazards and from electrical equipment used for display purposes | **4341** | **2345** | **86165** | Manual handling training and principles should be observed at all times, Displays should be properly fixed in place and checked for balance before public are in the area, particular attention should be given to any displays which may be affected by winds or ground vibration and movement and consideration to additional supports/guy lines should be made.All cables, strapping, bags etc should be placed out of walk way areas to eliminate and trip hazards, cables that must cross access ways should be secured and or covered.All electrical equipment in use should be used within manufacturers guidelines taking account of any water or splash proofing required for the scene of use. | **42****21** | **2335** | **8****665** |
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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Fitting and removing whale pontoons to model | Manual Handling Injury | Attending Medics, local volunteersSoft tissue injury, back injuries and falls from overloading | **3** | **3** | **9** | Use correct manual handling techniques. Ensure sufficient team members for lifting and appropriate briefing in use of pontoons is given prior to use. | **2** | **2** | **4** |
|  | Trapped hands/digits on carabiner clips | Attending medics, local volunteers.Open cuts/contusions which impact the medics ability to use hands and act as possible infection site for zoonotic infections | **3** | **2** | **6** | Use of Neoprene gloves, care taken in operating carabiners, loud clear communication and planning | **2** | **1** | **2** |
|  | Compressed air Cylinder:* Cylinder Explosion
* Pressurised hose
* Freezing pillar valve

Excessive noise level | Attending medics, local volunteers and cetacean.Risk of serious injury or death from explosion, air embolism through careless use of pressurised hoses. Freeze injury to hands through contact with frozen valve and damage to hearing and ears of human and cetacean. | **3****3****5****4** | **5****5****2****2** | **15****15****10****8** | Care taken in carriage and storage of cylinders throughout incident, especially ensuring the valve is not damaged, cylinders are not allowed to drop or fall over.Do not direct hose towards peopleNeoprene gloves to be worn, do not touch metal hose parts with bare skin.Open valve slowly and build up, ensuring hose is held securely. | **2****1****2****3** | **5****5****2****2** | **10****5****4****6** |
|  | * Over pressurizing pontoons
 | Attending medics, local volunteers and cetacean.Risk of injury from explosive bursting of pontoon | **4** | **3** | **12** | Manually check to ensure pontoons are only inflated until firm. If hot/sunny day recheck to determine if air needs to be taken out. | **1** | **3** | **3** |
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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Lifting model Cetacean using Stretcher or Tarpaulin | Manual Handling Injury | Attending Medics, local volunteersSoft tissue injury, back injuries and falls from overloading | **3** | **3** | **9** | Use correct manual handling techniques. Ensure sufficient team members for lifting and appropriate briefing in use of pontoons is given prior to use. | **2** | **2** | **4** |
|  | Tripping/Slipping | Attending medics, local volunteers, other agencies and public.Injury, including fractures, contusions and head injuries through falls and collision with other objects. Crush injury from carried weight being dropped. | **4** | **4** | **16** | Ensure suitable, supporting footwear is worn, check area for most suitable route and agree beforehand, remove/avoid trip hazards, ensure helmets are worn if rocks are a danger.ensure suitable visibility. | **2** | **2** | **4** |
|  | Trapping of fingers | Attending medics, local volunteersPinch injury, possible fracture or dislocation of digits. | **3** | **3** | **15** | Care taken in hand placement, especially if using rope to reinforce tarpaulinAvoid placing fingers between poles. | **2** | **2** | **4** |
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| **Task** | **Hazard** | **Who is at Risk and How** | **L** | **S** | **IR** | **Mitigation** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Refloating model Cetacean | Water entry | Attending Medics, local volunteers, other agenciesDrowning | 4 | 5 | 20 | Coastguard presence to monitor water safety, rescue boar and throwlines in place.All personnel working on or near water must be in properly worn protective suit ( Dry or wetsuit) and be wearing lifejackets. | 2 | 5 | 10 |
|  | Cold Water | Attending medics, local volunteers,Hypothermia, cold shock. | 5 | 4 | 20 | Dry suits, wet suits or survival suits to be worn correctly.Personnel to be rotated to minimize time in water, rest and recovery area to allow time to rewarm.Buddy system to maintain contact and checks on other personnel | 3 | 2 | 6 |
|  | Entanglement in Equipment | Attending medics, local volunteersPinch injury, possible fracture or dislocation of digits. | 3 | 3 | 15 | Care taken in hand placement, especially if using rope to reinforce tarpaulinAvoid placing fingers between poles. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
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