

19. Accidents, Injuries and Major Incidents

19.1 Minor Injuries

For minor cuts and bruises, treatment by one of the club's 1st aiders is recommended; for head injuries, an examination by a club 1st aider is essential. **A list of 1st aiders is on the secretary's notice-board.**

19.2 More serious and severe injuries

19.2.1 Patrol boat crews / trainers should radio the Rescue craft to organise additional 1st Aid assistance, and call the emergency services if appropriate.

19.2.2 The casualty(s) should be taken on board the powerboat and moved to shore whilst receiving treatment, abandoning their craft.

19.2.3 In the case of **hypothermia**, the casualty should be insulated from the wind, especially the head, brought indoors, changed into warm dry clothing, given warm sweet liquids if conscious (preferably not tea or coffee), and continuously monitored until they are able to stop shivering.

If the person is unconscious, or incoherent for more than a short period, or after the above treatment recovery is slow and the person can't stop shivering reasonably quickly, the emergency services must be called; note that shivering will stop when core temperature drops too low./

19.2.4 In the case of head injuries where casualties appear to be displaying the symptoms of concussion, they should be taken to hospital immediately or an ambulance called.

19.2.5 The Rescue craft, senior officer present, and senior instructor for a training session, will agree which of them will be the most appropriate person to contact the casualty's next of kin.

19.3 Accident Book

The Rescue craft, or for training, the Senior Instructor, must complete an entry in the accident book for all injuries, and emergencies. The accident book is located in the trophy cabinet in the clubhouse.

19.4 Major Incident

The Rescue craft, a committee member, or the senior instructor's priority is to call the emergency services and ensure immediate treatment and continuing monitoring of the injured; if there is a fatality, the police must be called and they would normally contact the next of kin. Tata Steel should also be called – telephone numbers at foot of Section 18.

A competent person should now **take charge of any major incident**, and take the following action:

- Instruct a minimum of two competent members to take club's wrecking bar and hammer and chisel and go immediately to the outer reservoir gate, just in case there is difficulty with the locks. The wrecking bar and hammer and chisel are located in the clubhouse immediately inside the canteen / lounge adjacent to its entrance doors
- These persons should wait at the gate to assist the emergency services, one should accompany the first emergency services responder to the clubhouse, whilst the other(s) remain at the open gate until the emergency is over. The gate should remain unlocked during this time.
- The competent person should arrange for a record of actions taken: times, names of persons involved in the incident, and obtain statements from witnesses.
- Ensure those involved are removed to an area away from any press
- Set aside a secure area in the boatshed and retain there any equipment, personal flotation devices, relevant to the incident.
- Make an entry in the club's accident book.
- Make a report to the Commodore / Training Principal at the earliest opportunity, and follow this up with a written report of the incident based on the statements from competent witnesses as above.
- If members of the press are present on the day of the incident, inform them that the Commodore / Training Principal will issue a statement at a later date. The names of casualties are not to be disclosed on the day of the incident.
- The Training Principal will contact the RYA legal department for advice on writing the report etc., at the earliest opportunity