

# Adventure Sunderland

## Activity Risk Assessment



### Powerboat Operations

**Location:** All areas within 3 miles of centre

Hazard	Potential harm	To Whom	Control Measures
Incompetent Users	Personal injury Drowning Hypothermia	Staff & participants	<p>All powerboat drivers to have minimum of level 2 powerboat certificate with Marine VHF license unless under supervision from suitably qualified staff within ratio and in accordance of RYA guidelines</p> <p>For students under instruction on RYA Courses (up to safety boat) the instructor must be a Powerboat instructor with coastal endorsement.</p>
Lack of equipment	Lost at Sea, Personal injury, Drowning Hypothermia	Staff & participants	<p>The boat to carry the following safety equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anchor, chain and warp,</li><li>• tube pump,</li><li>• two paddles,</li><li>• first aid kit, survival bag,</li><li>• serrated knife,</li><li>• basic engine maintenance kit,</li><li>• fire extinguisher,</li><li>• two orange smoke and two red flares or P.L.B.</li><li>• VHF radio,</li><li>• spare kill-cord and spare warps.</li></ul>
Running aground	Personal injury	Staff & participants	<p>Keep boat away from the beach. Use the depth gauge. Raise the engine into shallow drive if approaching beach. Deploy anchor if drifting onto shore or jetty or towards other boats. DO NOT operate in the 'surf zone'.</p>

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Collisions with other boats	Personal injury	Staff, participants, member of the public	Maintain 360° lookout at all times. Follow 'Rules of the Road', don't assume the other boat knows the rules. Make any course change obvious and early enough to avoid a collision.
Collisions with submerged objects	Personal injury	Staff & participants	Maintain 360° lookout at all times. Maintain a speed consistent with the prevailing sea conditions.
Capsize	Personal injury Drowning Hypothermia	Staff & participants	Asses the sea state conditions before leaving the harbor. Control the speed such that the boat will not take off over wave crests. Do not turn hard when planning.
Man over-board/drowning	Personal injury Drowning Hypothermia	Staff & participants	Ensure all passengers are holding on and aware before increasing speed and making tight turns. Don't make tight turns at speed in moderate or rough seas. Personal flotation to be worn at all times.
Swamping	Hypothermia	Staff & participants	Control the speed and engine trim so that the boat does not dig into the front of waves. Do not run astern at speed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carry a large bailer at all times.</li></ul>
Anchoring	Personal injury	Staff & participants	Check the water depth before deploying the anchor. Do not prepare/dismantle the anchor when moving at speed. Do not loop rope around limbs, minimize tangle/snag hazards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Always have a knife readily available on board</li></ul>
Towing	Personal injury	Staff & participants	In open water ensure the tow line is two wave wavelengths long. Use a towing bridle. Move all personnel from towed craft into rescue boat unless it is fitted with a rudder. Raise the engine if possible. In close proximity to pontoons or other boats use a side tow.
Launch/ Recovery	Personal injury	Staff & participants	Check the condition of the slipway before use. Ensure the sea conditions are calm before launch or recovery. Check the condition of the trailer before use.

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			<p>Use chocks on wheels when load is not taken by launch vehicle.</p> <p>Use a tow cable from the towing vehicle to the trailer.</p> <p>Ensure the boat is afloat and there is no tension on the winch cable before releasing from the winch.</p> <p>Driver to ensure he can observe any assistance at all times when moving the boat or trailer.</p>
Berthing	Personal injury	Staff & participants	<p>Control speed of approach.</p> <p>If necessary use reverse gear to slow the boat if being driven on by strong winds.</p>
Engine fire/explosion	Personal injury	Staff & participants	<p>Regular maintenance to be carried out on engine.</p> <p>No smoking on the boat.</p> <p>Do not overfill the fuel tank.</p>
Engine failure/out of fuel	Hypothermia, failure to attend incident.	Staff & participants	<p>Regular maintenance to be carried out on engine.</p> <p>Always carry sufficient fuel for intended use and spare in case of emergency</p>
Slips, trips, falls	Personal injury	Staff & participants	<p>Staff to ensure everyone is seated and holding on before moving off.</p> <p>Become stationary and turn engine off before moving around the boat.</p> <p>Do not open anchor blades until the boat is stopped and close after recovery before moving off.</p> <p>Be extra careful on the marina walkways following periods of rain or if there has been an overnight frost.</p> <p>Ensure that none of the participants run on the walkways</p>
Weather/sea state	Personal injury Drowning Hypothermia	Staff & participants	<p>Weather forecast obtained before activity.</p> <p>Visual inspection of weather conditions before the activity commences.</p> <p>Abandon if weather deteriorates.</p> <p>Ensure adequate warm and protective clothing for the prevailing weather.</p> <p>Advice all involved to use sun cream during sunny weather.</p> <p>In case of emergency staff will carry spare clothing.</p>
Person under the influence of drugs / alcohol	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Staff to exclude anyone who is apparently under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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Water quality	Weils disease, Hepatitis A	Staff and participants	Ensure all staff and participants wash their hands before either drinking or eating. Emphasize good personal hygiene. Cover all cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings.
Rescue of watercraft	Personal injury Drowning/death	Staff & participants	Staff to follow RYA guidelines of the rescuing of craft.
Lone working	Personal injury	Staff	Carry a radio at all times either on channel 16 or one of the private channels, ensure a second radio is tuned to the same channel and is monitored in the marina reception. Marina staff monitor movements in the marina. Discuss plans with someone on shore and establish overdue time and procedure.
Mown down by boat not under command	Personal injury Drowning/death	Staff & participants	Kill cord to be worn AT ALL TIMES

Risk assessments are to be reviewed on an annual basis unless an incident occurs, which then dictates immediate review of the risk assessment.

This Review completed by: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date: 06/01/2026

This version checked by: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date: 07/01/2026

To be completed by Centre Manager:

I consider this risk assessment to be suitable to control the risks to the health and safety of both employees undertaking the tasks involved and any other person who may be affected by the activities.

Name: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date of next review: 06/01/2027