

RE-UNION CANAL BOATS RISK ASSESSMENT

The Re-Union barge has been designed for use by a wide range of people. We aim to offer a place of safety where people feel welcome and able to enjoy a cruise on the canal, without being over-burdened by rules and regulations. We therefore operate a culture of safety, and Re-Union crew are trained to reduce the level of risk for our groups.

The general risk level of the boat is a medium risk, purely because many people are unfamiliar with boats. As the first measure of risk avoidance, all passengers will receive a general briefing at the beginning of each trip covering basic safety procedures and rules. A copy of this risk assessment may be provided on request in advance of the cruise. The general level of risk is reduced to low as groups follow the briefing and become accustomed to the boat.

Venue: Union Canal, Edinburgh Quay

Dates: 2011

Nominated Crew Member: Phil Gavigan – 07772 680452 / 07958 466205

Other project staff: Pat Bowie - Re-Union Office: 08453 457448 Mobile 07905 424036

Local Police Station/Emergency contact details: Local police: Wester Hailes – 0131 442 2626 /South Queensferry – 0131 331 1798 **Emergency No:** 999

Responsible Person – key emergency contact during programme (name, contact details): Pat Bowie – 07519 797087

Give careful consideration to specific hazards associated with the following issues (trivial hazards shouldn't be included):

Hazard	People at Risk	Severity & possible implication	Risk Category	Minimum Controls	Risk after controls
Slips, trips and falls - Accessing boat, piers, canal bank, boat decks, boat interior	Staff and groups, particularly young children and elderly	Reportable injury	Medium	Keep surfaces in good condition – grit during icy spells, non-slip paints. Minimal obstructions on floor. Group briefing on boat conditions. Staff present when people accessing the boat. First aid kit and trained staff on hand.	Low
Falls from a height - down steps, from barge roof	Staff and groups	Major injury / possible head injury	Medium	Staff assistance with steps and access. Maintenance and condition of steps. Hand rails in place for using gunnels. No member of public is to climb on the gunnels or roof of the boat. Crew using the gunnels/roof must take reasonable care to avoid slipping/falling, and be aware of the wind/movement of the boat. First Aid kit and trained staff on hand.	Low
General Activities on board	Staff and groups	Reportable injury	Low	Licensed drivers must be on the back deck at all times, groups must be supervised by their own member of staff. All activities must be agreed beforehand with Re-Union Staff. All groups must obey the safety instructions contained in the briefing at the beginning of	Low

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				the cruise.	
General Activities on shore	Staff and groups	Reportable injury	Medium	All groups must obey the safety instructions contained in the briefing at the beginning of the cruise. Re-Union crew with suitable outdoor/first aid qualifications should attend shore based activities if necessary.	Low
Food Hygiene	Staff and groups	Serious illness/food poisoning	Medium	No washing hands in canal, good source of clean water is provided on the boat. Obey food hygiene instructions contained on the boat. Kitchen is cleaned after each cruise. Re-Union is not a catering organisation. Groups are to bring their own food or consume food provided by Re-Union sourced from the Broomhouse Cafe meeting usual restaurant quality standards.	Low
Group Unrest	Staff and groups	Reportable injury/verbal abuse	Low	If a group poses a threat to the safety of the crew, or to cause damage to the boat, the boat will be moored up instantly, and the group asked to leave the boat. The crew should phone the local police station if necessary.	Low
Discrimination, verbal abuse and abuse of position	Staff and groups	Reportable injury/mental abuse	Low	Good supervision/overview, selection procedures for volunteers/crew. Two crew present at all times. Crew to follow the Re-Union child protection policy and equal opportunities policy at all times.	Low
Security and safety of belongings	Staff and groups	Loss of valuables	Medium	Secure area for valuables, and onboard vigilance by all can prevent theft. Re-Union is not responsible for any personal affects brought onto the boat. Groups must take their own precautions to ensure the security and safety of their belongings. Storage lockers are provided for small amounts of equipment on board. Re-Union also cannot accept responsibility for the loss of passengers' possessions overboard.	Low
Burns from hot liquids	Staff and groups	Reportable injury	High	This is of higher risk due to the greater frequency of use of kettles/kitchen area. Staff to show groups around the kitchen and introduce people to use of services on a boat. First Aid kit, cold water tap and trained staff on hand.	Medium
Hazard	People at Risk	Severity & possible implication	Risk Category	Minimum Controls	Risk after controls
Fires from Catering equipment	Staff and groups	Major injury/damage	Medium	Staff trained in turning off all equipment, and introduce group members to safety in the kitchen. Staff to check on group usage of kitchen and	Medium

				bathroom throughout a trip. Fire blanket and extinguishers throughout the boat. Evacuation procedure delivered to groups on arrival. Trained staff on hand.	
Manual handling – lifting too heavy load/incorrect technique	Staff	Reportable injury	Low	Staff provided with sufficient training on manual handling, risks reduced by providing trolleys etc for large goods	Low
Hitting head as entering boat	Staff, volunteers and groups	Head injury/reportable injury	Medium	Crew to assist on initial entry to boat and highlight danger. Crew to ensure steps are dry and in safe condition prior to group embarkation.	Low
Propeller Damage	Crew maintaining propeller/clearing reeds	Major injury	Medium	Only trained crew to clear propeller jams/reeds on prop. Crew must be in possession of keys so as may not be started whilst maintaining. Refer to manual for operating procedure	Low
Collision with boats, floating objects or pier	Crew and groups	Reportable injuries and damage	Low	Boats operated only by trained and suitably experienced crew.	Low
Walking along gunnels/roof	Crew and groups	Reportable injury	Low	No member of public is to climb on the gunnels or roof of the boat. Crew using the gunnels/roof must take reasonable care to avoid slipping/falling, and be aware of the wind/movement of the boat.	Low
Tripping over mooring ropes	Crew and groups	Reportable injury	Low	Training crew to be aware of rope hazards when mooring up; crew to assist groups accessing/leaving boat and make aware of the ropes; bright ropes to be visible against canal bank.	Low
Chemical poisoning	Crew and groups	Major/Reportable injury	Low	All cleaning chemicals/maintenance products to be kept in locked cupboard and clearly labelled.	Low
Hazard	People at Risk	Severity & possible implication	Risk Category	Minimum Controls	Risk after controls
Passenger falling overboard	Crew and groups	Reportable injury	Low	Lifejackets and belts readily available, trained crew to effect rescue immediately if the person involved cannot stand up and walk/swim to bank. This risk can be avoided by restricting unsupervised access to gunnels and roof. Members of public who have fallen in the water should be advised to report to A&E for a check up.	Low
Drowning in canal	Crew and groups	Reportable injury/death from drowning	Low	Canal is only 3-4ft deep with a safety 'shelf' at side in urban areas. Two first-aid trained crew present at all times, and effect rescue immediately using appropriate equipment and judgement. Emergency services called to nearest canal access point.	Low
People/limbs trapped between	Crew and groups	Reportable crushing	High	Groups briefed not to hang out of windows or doors, nor walk	Medium

boat and bank – especially whilst moving under bridges		injury		along gunnels or reach down into water from outdoor decks whilst boat is under the bridges. Crew members also aware and vigilant at the appropriate times. Boat cruise to tick-over through bridge holes.	
Transport Security	Crew and groups	Theft of vehicles/ possessions. Damage to vehicles.	Low	Cars, bikes and other forms of group transport are left at the owners' risk. Re-Union accepts no responsibility for groups' own transport whilst on a cruise, nor for public transport services arriving at the canal. The Bridge Inn car park or church car parks are visible areas in Ratho, and there is on street parking at most other access points to the canal.	Low