

British Divers Marine Life Rescue Risk Assessment



Risk Assessment Title: **Rescue/Assessment of a stranded Cetacean**

Risk Assessment Number: **BDMLR/RA001** Risk Assessment Date: **01/02/2011**

Risk Assessment Review Date: **26/06/2015** Risk Assessment Author: **A. Jack**

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 as foreseeable within our thresh hold 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.

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 and road conditions	2	2	4
	>Road Conditions	3	4	12		2	3	6
	>Over Speeding	4	5	20	Do not exceed speed limit	1	3	3
	> Pedestrians	2	5	10	Be aware of pedestrians	1	5	5
	Breakdown	3	1	3	Ensure vehicle in good condition	1	1	1
	Getting Lost	4	1	4	Plan route or use satnav System	2	1	2
ALARP								

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR
Access / egress to location	Falling from Height due to-							
	>Access via steep path	4	4	16	Utilize HM Coast Guard Cliff	2	1	2
	>Access via vertical cliff face	4	5	20	Rescue Team or Mountain Rescue Team	2	1	2
	>Access via Steep Slope	4	4	16		2	1	2
	>Access over large rocks	4	4	16	Maintain 3 points of contact	2	2	4
	Slipping / Tripping due to-							
	>Wet grass	4	4	16	Ensure suitable footwear is worn	3	2	6
	>Wet rocks	4	4	16	Maintain 3 points of contact	3	2	6
	>Soft mud	4	3	12	Use of buddy lines to be considered	2	1	2
	>Loose sand	3	3	9		2	1	2
	>Loose shingle or rocks	4	5	20		3	2	6
	Stuck in substrate -							
	>Soft sand	3	3	9	Use specialist vehicles	1	1	1
	>Soft Mud	4	3	12	Utilize Fire & Rescue Services	2	2	4
	Bodily injury due to slipping tripping or falling -							
	>Head injury	4	5	20	Wear safety helmet	2	2	4
	>Broken / twisted Ankle	4	4	16	Wear ankle supporting boots	2	4	8
	>Broken arms or legs	4	4	16	Maintain 3 points of contact	2	4	8
	Manual handling injuries	3	4	12	Use correct manual handling techniques. Use teamwork or mechanical aids	2	2	4
	ALARP							

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR
Assessment / first aid of the Cetacean	Conditions on site							
	>Heavy surf	4	2	8	Buddy lines & life jackets to be used	2	2	4
	>Under currents	4	3	12	& rescue boat cover advised	2	2	4
	>Substrate	4	2	8	Clear loose rocks from area	2	2	4
	>Tidal conditions	4	3	12	Use Local Knowledge or tide tables	2	2	4
	>Water temperature	5	4	20	Dry suits , wetsuits or survival suits	2	2	4
	>Wind-chill	5	4	20	Overcoats or wind cheaters	2	2	4
	>Visibility	4	3	12	lighting, strobe lights or snap sticks	2	2	4
	Cetacean							
	>Teeth	2	3	6	Use sheets/towels to open mouth	1	1	1
	>Tail	4	5	20	Keep personnel clear of tail and sides of body if rolling (spotter req.)	2	5	10
	>Weight	4	5	20		2	5	10
	>Breath	3	4	12	Face mask or visor to be worn	1	4	4
	>Whale Lice	2	2	4	Use salt water rather than fresh	1	2	2
	>Biohazards	4	4	16	Wear disposable gloves at all times	2	4	8
ALARP								

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR	
Beach Activities and Incident Control	Members of the public & Media								
	>Interference	5	2	10	Erect barricades/barriers	2	1	2	
	>Emotional issues	5	3	15	Keep public/media informed	3	2	6	
	>Euthanasia issues	5	2	10	Erect shields & Keep informed	3	2	6	
	>Violence / Verbal Abuse	3	3	9	Police attendance advisable	2	1	2	
	>Proximity	4	2	8	Keep everyone behind barriers	2	1	2	
	>Constant questioning	5	2	10	Hold press / public statements	2	1	2	
	Rescue Team Welfare								
	>Communication	5	2	10	Appoint a Beach Master	2	1	2	
	>Exhaustion	5	3	15	Rotate personnel regularly Monitor condition of rescue team, only allow personnel with dry/wet suits to enter the water	2	2	4	
	>Hypothermia	5	4	20	Life jackets must be worn	2	2	4	
	>Drowning	5	4	20	Provide adequate supply of water	2	2	4	
	>Dehydration	5	3	15	Provide adequate supply of food	2	1	2	
	>Hunger	5	2	10	Where possible provide toilet fac.	3	1	3	
	>Sanitation requirements	3	5	15	Control team by use of log sheets First aiders and first aid kits available on site	2	2	4	
	>Missing member	2	3	6		2	2	4	
	>Personal injury								
	ALARP								

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR
Fitting / removing Cetacean pontoons	Manual handling injury	3	4	12	Use correct lifting techniques Use buddy system - get assistance	2	2	4
	Rolling whale							
	>Trapping Feet or legs	3	4	12	Use loud verbal communication	2	2	4
	>Crushing	3	5	15	Team spotter to control roll	2	2	4
	Trapping hands / fingers on clips	4	2	8	Use neoprene gloves Use loud verbal communication	2	2	4
	Compressed air cylinders							
	>Cylinder explosion	3	5	15	Lay cylinders flat Protect Pillar valve	1	5	5
	>Hands freezing to pillar valve	5	3	15	Flow air slowly under control Wear neoprene gloves Do not touch exposed metal	2	1	2
	>Air embolism	2	5	10	Do not direct air towards skin	1	5	5
	>Excessive Noise Level	5	2	10	Open valve slowly	3	2	6
	>Pressurized Hose	5	4	20	Ensure A clamp is securely fitted Ensure end of hose is held firmly Open valve slowly	2	2	4
	Over pressurizing Pontoons	4	2	8	Ensure pontoons are only inflated until firm	1	2	2
	ALARP							

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR
<i>Lifting Cetacean using stretcher or tarpaulin</i>	<i>Manual handling injury</i>	5	4	20	<i>Use correct manual handling techniques Ensure sufficient numbers for lift Ensure team are equally matched Use loud verbal communications</i>	2	3	6
	<i>Tripping/Slipping</i>	4	4	16	<i>Discuss route to be taken before lift Clear path of obstacles if possible minimise distance of carry</i>	2	2	4
	<i>Hazardous Breath</i>	4	4	16	<i>Avoid leaning over blowhole</i>	2	2	4
	<i>Trapping of fingers</i>	3	3	9	<i>Avoid placing fingers between poles</i>	2	2	4
ALARP								

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR
<i>Restoring equilibrium</i>	<i>Hit by Tail flukes</i>	4	5	20	<i>Remain behind flukes at arms distance Only have a light grip of tail flukes Do not stand on either side of tail stock</i>	2	3	6
ALARP								

TASK	HAZARD	L	S	IR	RISK CONTROLS	L	S	RR
<i>Refloating Cetacean</i>	<i>Drowning</i>	3	5	15	<i>Ensure Dry Suit /Survival Suit zips are closed fully Life jackets to be worn Rescue boat cover to be available where possible</i>	1	5	5
	<i>Hypothermia</i>	5	5	25	<i>Only dry suits, wet suits or survival suits to be worn Minimize exposure time in water Frequently rotate personnel Dry off immediately once exited water If in wet suit change into dry clothes immediately upon exiting water Buddy up, frequently check on each other</i>	2	3	6
	<i>Entanglement in equipment</i>	4	5	20	<i>Removal of equipment to be controlled by an appointed person Use loud verbal communications Keep your distance when pontoons are being removed from Cetacean</i>	2	3	6
	<i>Struck by Cetacean</i>	4	5	20	<i>Keep clear of cetaceans line of escape Keep clear of either side of Cetacean Keep clear of tail flukes</i>	1	3	3
ALARP								