



SAFETY PLAN FOR ON-WATER EMERGENCIES

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Remember that CPR does not usually resuscitate but maintains circulation until defibrillator applied.

Introduction

In 2011 we will see the 53rd staging of the Head of the Yarra®. This regatta always attracts a large entry, ranging from International standard competitors through to school crews in their first event (approximately 200 crews). With these large entries, care must be taken to address the risk of injury on the water to regatta participants.

This Safety Plan For On-Water Emergencies ("Safety Plan") sets forth procedures to follow in the event of an on-water emergency arising from equipment failure, collision, or unintended water immersion, in order to prevent or minimize related injuries.

On-water emergencies entail the added risk element of immersion. In addition to the obvious risk of accidental drowning, there is the often unappreciated risk of hypothermia.

Accordingly, it is of paramount importance that all Regatta participants – rowers, coaches, and others – in the event of an on-water emergency, yield absolutely to the authority and direction of official Regatta personnel in matters of safety and rescue. Refer to the website for race rules.

The Plan

The Safety Plan is designed for flexibility and adaptability to particular circumstances of a given mishap. **The ultimate authority for management of any operation rests with the Regatta Referee. All other Regatta officials/personnel will look to the Referee for direction.** The purpose of the Plan is to set out certain basic rules designed to allow for maximum efficiency and control of any emergency operation.

- **Notification of an Incident:**

Upon witnessing or being credibly advised of an on-water mishap, any **regatta personnel shall report directly (via walkie-talkie) to the Regatta Referee the following information:**

- The precise location of the mishap;
- The general nature of the mishap;
- The apparent number of participants involved; and
- Whether the party making the notification is an official on the water in the immediate vicinity of the mishap and is initiating emergency operations.

Upon acknowledgement of the receipt of the notification, the Regatta Referee will designate which regatta officials are to proceed to the site of the mishap and will instruct those officials to turn their communications devices to the designated Emergency Channel. **All other parties will stay off the Emergency Channel.** The Medical/Safety Director will also turn their communications device to the Emergency Channel.

The Referee will immediately notify the officials at the starting line to cease starting crews in the Regatta until further notice.

- **Response to Notification:**

The first of the designated respondents to arrive at the mishap scene will:

- Briefly announce over the Emergency Channel that he/she is at the scene and describe what has occurred;
- Advise whether any of the participants are potentially seriously injured;
- Advise if unmanned equipment constitutes a potential hazard to other crews;
- Advise whether crews approaching the scene of the mishap constitute an immediate hazard; and
- Supply any other relevant information.

The Referee will then:

- Decide whether the racing must be stopped, and, if so, make an announcement to that effect over the general communications channel;
- Decide whether additional personnel are needed at the scene and mobilize them as above; and
- Stay in communication over the Emergency Channel.

Designated responders to the scene will work with one another to:

- Rescue immersed individuals;
- Announce whether any potentially serious injuries exist and request the Medical Director to secure the assistance of emergency services as required;
- Secure and/or remove unmanned equipment constituting an immediate hazard;
- Halt or divert oncoming crews, according to whether the Regatta Referee has stopped the event; and
- Provide updates over the Emergency Channel as the circumstances permit.

Emergency Response

The following medical/emergency personnel will be available to competitors on the day of the event.

- Three Medical/Safety Directors (available by mobile, refer Contact Information)
- Four Life Saving Victoria Vessels on the Water
- Event Paramedics on Site at Hawthorn Rowing Club.

- **Treatment of Immersion and Injuries:**

- Simple immersion and/or minor injuries

Individuals who have been simply immersed and appear to have suffered only minor injuries, if any will be treated as follows:

- Each and every “wet” individual will be wrapped in one of the hypothermia blankets (“space blankets”) with which every motor launch will be equipped.
- Each and every “wet” individual will be taken as soon as is practicably possible under the circumstances to a site for rewarming and medical evaluation;

- The default site for treatment of “wet” individuals and individuals with minor injuries will be Hawthorn Rowing Club and all such individuals will be taken there for rewarming and medical evaluation unless otherwise instructed by the Regatta Referee, or Medical Safety Director; and
- The Medical Safety Director will communicate with Emergency Medical Units as required.
- **Treatment of Serious injuries**
 - Individuals who appear to have sustained more than minor injuries will be treated as follows:
 - As soon as a potentially serious injury is perceived, it will be reported over the Emergency Channel to the attention of the Medical/Safety Director;
 - The individual will be transferred to one of the four Life Saving Victoria vessels;
 - The individual will be transferred to one of five Emergency Access Points, as noted, upon instruction from one of the Medical/Safety Directors;
 - The individual will receive minimal first aid in the process of transport, until such time, they can be placed in the care of paramedics for transport to a medical facility;
 - The Medical/Safety Director will acknowledge receipt of such reports over the Emergency Channel and issue instructions as appropriate;
 - The Medical/Safety Director will secure the assistance of any emergency services; and
 - The Medical/Safety Director will designate and mobilize Regatta Emergency Personnel to assist the Emergency Services Units as needed and receive seriously injured individuals for stabilization and transport to appropriate advanced care facilities.
- **Disposition of immersed and non-seriously injured individuals**
 - Once delivered to the designated rewarming and treatment location, immersed and non-seriously injured individuals will
 - Be rewarmed and have their vital signs determined by Emergency Medical personnel;
 - Be evaluated for injuries and central nervous system function;
 - Be released when appropriate as determined by the Emergency Medical personnel; and
 - Provide a signature on a designated form to indicate with which organization he/she is affiliated and that he/she has disclosed all symptoms/complaints/injuries of which he/she is aware and has had them evaluated and tended to.

The Regatta is not responsible for keeping track of individuals or equipment for participating schools/clubs. That responsibility lies with the school/club. The Regatta Secretary, Referee, Medical/Safety Director, and/or other Regatta personnel will, however, make all reasonable efforts to notify the organization of the whereabouts of its crew and equipment and to assist, wherever possible, in facilitating the delivery of dry clothing to immersed crew members.

Disposition of Unmanned Equipment:

The primary purpose of recovery of unmanned equipment by regatta personnel is to eliminate a potential hazard and avoid the risk of secondary injury to regatta participants. The safety and recovery of individuals will always take precedence over preservation of equipment. In the event that crews become separated from their equipment, Regatta personnel will

- Remove the equipment from the course to the most practicable location to avoid a collision hazard;
- Assure the eventual delivery of equipment to a dock location where it can be recovered by the club/school to which it belongs; and
- Make every reasonable effort to notify the club/school where its equipment may be recovered.

Execution of the Plan

The Safety Plan will be executed under the direction of the Regatta Referee. The execution of the Plan may be modified as necessary based on individual circumstances in the judgment of the individual directing the execution of the plan.

Decisions concerning whether an event must be stopped and/or cancelled and any changes in the Regatta schedule occasioned by an on-water mishap will be made by the Referee and the Regatta Secretary.

Dissemination of the Plan

- A representative from each and every crew entered must attend a safety briefing on **Friday 25 November 2011** at Hawthorn Rowing Club, where a copy of the safety plan will be made available. A copy will also be available at www.headoftheyarra.com.
- Each and every participant or crew will be presumed to have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the Rules as a condition of participation in the Regatta.
- Each and every club/school will be provided with a copy of the Safety Plan at Regatta Registration.
- A copy of the Plan will be provided to each and every Regatta official at the pre-event briefing and in turn will be reviewed at this briefing; and
- Each and every Regatta launch will be equipped with a copy of the Plan.

This plan may be updated and amended as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Regatta Committee.

Emergency Access Points

In the event of an emergency it may be necessary for emergency vehicles to have close access to the river. Details are provided below of easy access points for emergency services.

Access Point	Location Name	Location Description	Melway Reference
EAP1	Powerhouse R C Jetty	Access off Alexandra Parade	2M-D1
EAP 2	St Kevin's Landing	Access off the Boulevard	59-A1
EAP 3	Scotch College	Access through Morrison Street gate	59-C2
EAP 4	Leonda Reception	Access through entrance Wallen Road	45-A11
EAP 5	Hawthorn Rowing Club	Access through Yarra Park, Creswick St	2H-J7

In the event of emergency vehicle access a regatta official will be directed to meet the emergency vehicle at the nearest main road access point. Refer to the map for EAP points clearly marked.

Emergency Contact Information

Listed below are contact details for major Regatta Personnel.

Position	Name	Contact Number
Regatta Secretary @ Hawthorn	Malcolm Coe	0419 905 562
Start Judge @ Judges Box	David Coe	0409 649 998
Race Referee	Rene Klupacs	0458 285 217
Race Registrar	Bill Goodwin	0425 792 616
Medical/Safety Director	Dr Denis Bourke	0411 863 863
Medical/Safety Director	Dr Tim Landy	0418 691 414
Medical/Safety Director		
Ambulance		000
Police		000
Fire		000
Nearest hospital	St Vincents 41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy	9288 2211
Park Ranger – Operations Officer	Larry Wooding	0419 133 979
Parks Victoria Staff	Richard Everard	0418 306 708
Parks Victoria Staff	Julian Stockbridge	0407 498 144
Parks Victoria Staff	Andrew Agrotis	0400 842 892
Personnel Control	Alison O'Connor	0417 501 779
Timing Control	Belinda Goglia	0438 302 271



COURSE UMPIRES, SAFETY BOATS, AMBULANCE ACCESS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A Princes Bridge Boatsheds | H Big Bend – Alexandra Ave | O Opposite Leonda Landing |
| B Anderson St / Morell Bridge | I Loys Paddock | P Wallen Rd Bridge |
| C Monash Freeway | J MacRobertson Bridge | Q Railway Bridge |
| D Hoddle Bridge | K Orrong Road | R Boat Landing |
| E Alexandra Ave Jetty | L St Kevin's | S End of Buoys |
| F Melbourne High | M Scotch Landing | T Landing Umpire |
| G Opposite Wesley Boatshed | N Fairview Park | + Safety Boat |
| | | • Ambulance Access |

EAP – Emergency Access Points

BRIDGES

- 1 Swan Street Bridge
- 2 Morell Bridge
- 3 Hoddle Bridge
- 4 Church Street Bridge
- 5 MacRobertson Bridge
- 6 Freeway and Footbridge
- 7 Wallen Rd / Swan St Bridge
- 8 Hawthorn Bridge

HEAD OF THE YARRA COURSE MAP



