

Snorkel Dive Manager

Risks and Emergencies



Module objectives

This module introduces students to the background knowledge needed to understand how to manage activities to keep them safe and how to deal with any issue or incidents that may arise.

Achievement targets

At the end of this module students should:

- Understand risk – who to, what, mitigating actions, dynamic RA
- Understand how to make an emergency plan
- Understand how to plan shore cover
- Understand how to plan boat cover
- Understand how to manage the group
- Understand how to delegate tasks
- Understand how to deal with the emergency services
- Understand how to give advice to parents/snorkel divers
- Understand how to log accidents and incidents
- Understand safeguarding and the implications

Module content

Understanding Risks to Snorkel Divers and Controlling Them

- Understanding Risk
- Safeguarding
- Emergency Planning - Shore/Boat
- Group Management
- Problems
- Delegation
- Managing Issues
- Logging and Reporting



Understanding Risk

Who can be at risk?

- Discuss this among the students and compile a list. There can be risk to snorkel divers of any level, age or experience, to non-diving participants, to the cox and anyone else involved.

What risks are there?

- Talk through the timeline of a day of snorkel diving and identify possible risks
- See examples in table below

What action should we take?

- Identify action to take.
- See examples in table below

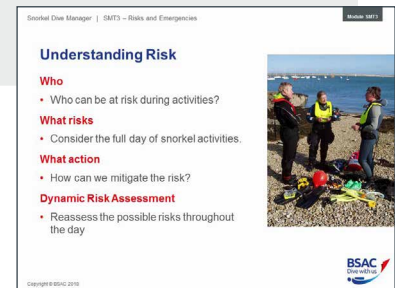


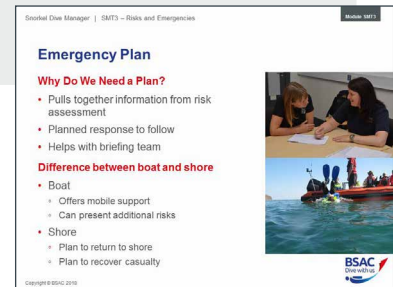
Table 1: Example Risk Assessment

Point in Day	Risk	Action
Travel to site, travel from site	Tiredness due to long journey	Share driving, take a break every two hours
Unloading equipment, packing up	Injury due to lifting or dropping	
Kitting up, entry, exit, de-kit	Slips and trips	
Kitting up, entry, exit	Collisions	
Kitting up, de-kit	Over-heating	Shade, water, don't put wetsuits on too early, brief and buddy check in water.
Kitting up, de-kit	Getting cold	Warm drinks after activity, shelter, change into dry clothes
Entry, exit	Injury by boat	Boat in neutral for drop off and pick up. Trained cox to be in charge of boat
Travel in boat	Sea sickness	
Travel in boat	Man over board	
Travel in boat	Loss of equipment	
In-water	Choking	
In-water	Sea water inhalation	
In-water	Near drowning	
In-water	Cold	
In-water	Heat	
In-water	Jellyfish stings	
In-water	Separation from boat	
In-water	Separation from shore	

Emergency Plan

Why do we need a plan?

- An emergency plan pulls together the information from our risk assessment and provides confidence that we have the appropriate equipment, resources and people available in the event that something goes wrong. By planning for incidents we have an outlined response to follow and can brief our team on actions to take in the event of a problem.



Difference Between Boat and Shore

- In the event of a boat based incident it is likely that the boat will be mobile and able to come to the snorkel divers to assist. However the boat also presents its own risks and issues that should be considered.
- When an incident occurs from the shore it is important to have a plan for returning the group safely to shore and considering how a casualty could be removed from the water.

Emergency Plan (2)

Recall Signals

- As snorkel divers operate on a one-up-one down basis, the Lead Snorkel Diver should be monitoring the surface cover for a recall. Where there is line of sight this could be a wave (similar to the help signal) or a whistle or klaxon could be used.



Responsibilities

- The Snorkel Dive Manager takes responsibility for the safe management of all snorkel diving activities.
- The Lead Snorkel Diver is the lead in the water and takes initial responsibility for any in-water issues and will communicate with the SDM for their support.

Equipment Available

- First Aid Kit, Oxygen, Whistle, SMB

Emergency Plan - Shore

Shore cover

- What cover is available?
- Are there any snorkel divers?
- What skills do they have?
- What skills do they have?

Access Issues

- What is the entry and exit like?
- Are they affected by tide or changing conditions?
- Will any of the snorkel divers need assistance to get in or out of the water?

Safety Equipment

- What is available/needed?
- Which members of the team are able to use the equipment?
- Is this sufficient?

Contacts

- Emergency contact information should be collected for each individual and kept safe.



Emergency Plan - Boat

Working with the skipper / cox

- Any plan needs to work with the way the skipper/cox operates so a plan should be developed in conjunction with them.



Radio

- This can be used to speak to other boats or the emergency services in the event of an incident. Any snorkel divers with a VHF license are able to use this. The skipper should brief the group on what to do in the event of an emergency

Safety Equipment

- What does the boat carry and what do you need to provide

Shelter

- Does the boat have a cabin to provide shelter or if needed will it need to be more makeshift

Recovering Snorkel Divers

- How can an unconscious snorkel divers be recovered on to the boat. Work with the skipper to establish how they would usually do this.

Quiz 1

What can you use as a recall signal?

- Wave
- Whistle
- Klaxon

What should you consider for a shore dive?

- Shore cover
- Entry and Exit
- Safety equipment
- Contacts

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Quiz 1


What can you use as a recall signal?

- Wave
- Whistle
- Klaxon

What should you consider for a shore dive?

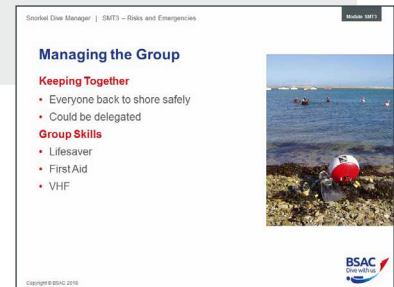
- Shore cover
- Entry and Exit
- Safety equipment
- Contacts





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Managing the Group



Keeping together

- As a Lead Snorkel Diver in the event of an incident one of the main jobs as well as dealing with the specific issue is to manage the group, keep them together and ensure everyone reaches shore / boat safely and without further incident.
- Where there are other issues to deal with it may be necessary to delegate this task to the next most experience snorkel diver

Group skills

- (lifesaver, O2 admin, first aid, VHF)
- Although the SDM will have overall management the LSD will need to take charge in the water.
- What skills do your snorkel divers have that you may need to use in the event of an incident in-water.

Problems

What in-water action can be used to resolve these issues?

Equipment

- Entanglement with smb or survey equipment

Cold

- identification of problem.
- How to manage - take diver back to shore for warming.
- Does everyone need to return?
- Can a buddy pair head back?



Separation

- monitoring to prevent.
- Use of SMB as central point.
- Regularly gathering group back together.

Bunching

Delegation

With all delegation the most important thing is knowing the skills of your team to delegate to the best person, giving clear instructions and monitoring progress

Casualty Care

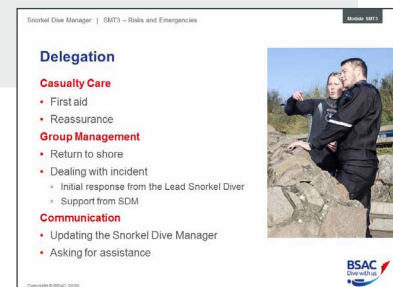
- Towing casualty back to shore, in-water first aid.

Group Management

- The LSD will need to manage getting the other snorkel divers safely back to shore
- The SDM will need to manage the group on the shore and send any additional support needed to the people in the water

Communications

- Speaking to the SDM on shore and keeping them informed about issues or progress

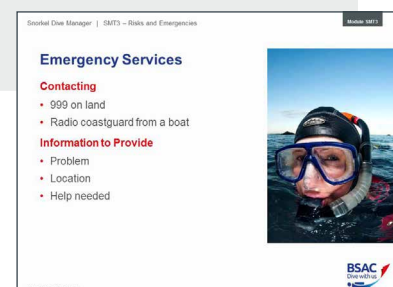


Emergency Services

Contacting

- 999 on land
- Radio coastguard from a boat

Information to provide



- Problem
- Location
- Help needed

Response Times

Managing Issues

Advice for Snorkel Divers / Parents – impact of cold, signs of after effects of immersion/near drowning

Issues may not be immediate

Snorkel Divers may experience some effects from activities later in the day or once they have gone home.

Provide advice for Snorkel Divers or Parents

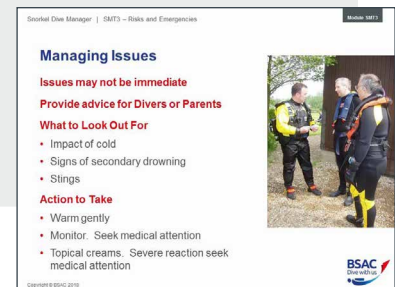
Educating them and their support network means that any issues can be dealt with quickly and confidently.

What to Look Out For

- Impact of cold - shivering, lack of response
- Signs of secondary drowning (also known as delayed symptoms of drowning) -
- shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, coughing and/or chest discomfort. Extreme fatigue, irritability and behaviour changes are also possible.
- Stings - swelling, irritation

Action to Take

- Cold - gentle rewarming. Warm clothes, warm drinks, monitor condition
- Drowning - any concerns seek medical attention immediately
- Stings - mild reactions use local creams. Severe reactions seek medical attention immediately.



Logging and Reporting

Casualty Form

- During an incident someone should be nominated to record what happens and any action taken.
- This can be provided to the emergency services if necessary or used to inform a debrief.



Incident Form

- BSAC collects data about incidents and this is used to help us understand activities and issues.
- After any incident a form should be completed online

Group Debrief

- Provide an update to the rest of the group as to how the incident was resolved, current status and any lessons to be learned

Safeguarding

BSAC takes its safeguarding duty very seriously regarding the safety and well-being of children participating in the activities of snorkelling and diving.

We have worked with leading organisations such as the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), who helped us prepare this document, and with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).



BSAC Buddyguard

- BSAC Buddyguard is the BSAC safeguarding policy and can be downloaded from the BSAC website bsac.com/safeguarding

How does this apply?

- This policy sets out how we as an organisation seek to protect the safety of children and vulnerable adults. It is expected that every member will have an awareness of this policy and that all diving and snorkelling clubs will follow the

policy and its guidance.

What should you do?

- All instructors working with children and vulnerable adults must be familiar with all aspects of this policy.
- If you have any doubts or queries in regards to the application of the policy you should contact the BSAC Safeguarding Officer at BSAC headquarters.

Quiz 2

When contacting the emergency services what information should you provide?

- Nature of the problem
- Location
- Type of help required

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Quiz 2

What weather can affect diving?

- Direction and time of wind
- Strength of the wind
- Rain/Fog

What wind force limits diving?

- Force 4 or higher

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Where can you find the BSAC Buddyguard and Safeguarding policies?

- BSAC website bsac.com/safeguarding

Summary

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- Group Management
- Problems
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- Managing issues
- Logging and Reporting
- Safeguarding

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