

Changes to Water Safety Guidance – Incident Reporting

The ARA has updated their water safety guidance and the way we report incidents has changed. **From 1st January 2009, all incidents must be reported online.**

What do I need to do?

If you are involved in an incident, accident or dangerous situation, you must report it **within 24 hours** using this online form:

<http://www.oara.org.uk/IncidentReporting/SubmitReport/UserDetails.aspx>

This can be completed anonymously if you wish.

The system automatically notifies the Club Water Safety Officer, the Regional Water Safety Adviser, and the ARA Water Safety Adviser.

What counts as an incident?

In the words of the ARA:

- Capsize or falling out of boat through; inexperience, contact with another rowing boat, contact with other object, equipment or boat failure
- Collision through; contact with static object, moving object, navigation issue, poor visibility or lighting
- Swamping through; through water, collision with other rowing boat, collision with other object, wash
- Health related; manual handling, respiratory, hypothermia, heat stress, water-borne disease
- Equipment failure; boat buoyancy, riggers, gates, seats/feet, steering equipment, bow ball, blades/sculls, safety/coaching/rescue launch, PFD's, throw lines, racking
- Land training due to; weight training, circuit training, running, cycling, indoor rowing, slips/trips
- Behaviour; vandalism/violence
- Trailer towing: failure of equipment, driving issue, incorrect or improper stowage, falling from a height

Near misses should also be reported, e.g.:

- sudden evasive action had to be taken to avoid a collision
- a boat is flouting navigation rules
- a boat is not displaying the required lights at night
- a crew has boated in high risk conditions
- a dangerous situation existed

How is this different from before?

Previously, incidents were split into “reportable” (involving injury or damage to equipment) and “recordable” (no injury or damage). Reportable incidents were submitted to the ARA by post and recordable incidents were logged in the Incident Book in the boathouse. The new system is for all kinds of incident, and should make reporting much easier.

Further information

Incident reporting is really important and helps us make rowing safer for ourselves and other river users. So please make use of the new system. It is much better to report what might seem like trivial incidents than not to report significant ones. So, **if in doubt, report it.**

For more information about the new system:

<http://www.ara-rowing.org/news/online-incident-reporting>

The full ARA *Row Safe* guidance can be found here:

<http://www.ara-rowing.org/row-safe>

If you have any questions about any of the above please contact the Club Water Safety Adviser Alex Johnson: alex.l.johnson@gmail.com