



Erewash & Midlands
- Scuba Divers

Erewash and Midlands ~ Scuba Divers Diving Risk Assessment



Hazard	Who	Frequency	Severity	Controls	Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk occurs
DCI	All	Occasional	Fatal	Dives planned and conducted to BSAC safe diving. Use of BSAC '88 tables, decompression tables, nitrox tables and or decompression computer.	Provide Basic Life Support and 1st aid. O2 administration. VHF to notify coastguard support. Emergency services activation plan.
Deteriorating weather	All	Frequent	Fatal	Check/ monitor weather prior to and during dive operations.	Relocate to another site. Diver recall agreed with divers Cancel or relocate dive location. Terminate diving activities. Advise coastguard of activities and location.
Diver separation	All	Occasional	Fatal	All diving done in buddy pairs. Contact to be always maintained.	Divers to follow BSAC lost diver procedures (30 second search & slow ascent) & re-establish contact. Establish search if necessary
Ear damage	All	Occasional	Moderate	Specific instruction in ear clearing. Divers do not dive when suffering with cold, 'flu or sinus problems.	Assistance from buddy or 1st aid qualified divers. Refer to medical services for diagnosis & recovery.
Entanglement	All	Rare	Fatal	All divers to carry cutting implement such as shears, knife, line cutter etc.	Assistance from buddy to untangle.
Falling cylinders	All	Rare	Moderate	Ensure equipment correctly stowed or laid down when unattended.	1st aid from qualified divers. Refer to medical services if injury severe. Re-test or check by qualified service technician.
Heart Attack	All	Rare	Fatal	Medical self-declaration / referral to medical referee.	BLS & AED by 1st aid qualified divers. Emergency services activation plan.



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Hazard	Who	Frequency	Severity	Controls	Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk occurs
Impact with boat / propeller	All	Rare	Fatal	Qualified cox'n at helm always. Diver entry / exit controlled by cox'n. Boat in neutral when dropping off/picking up divers.	Remind divers to stay clear of stern on ascent. Provide 1st aid. Refer to medical services.
Injury from other boats	All	Rare	Fatal	Fly 'A' flag during dive operations. Cox'n monitor surface traffic. Divers use SMB/DSMB.	Provide 1st aid. Refer to medical services.
Low underwater visibility	All	Frequent	Major	All diving done in buddy pairs. Contact to be always maintained. Divers to carry strobes and buddy lines.	Utilise strobes & lines at onset of reduced visibility. Abort dive if severe. Surface & exit & advise dive manager
Man overboard	All	Rare	Fatal	All onboard (whether diving or not) to wear dry suits whilst onboard the boat Ensure dry suits are fastened and comfortably inflated whilst onboard	Shout, throw, point to be adopted Shout "Man overboard!" Throw the lifebuoy from the boat into the water Keep a constant eye of the location of the person in the water and point to them. Immediately inform the skipper and point, they will locate the boat to recover. If the person overboard is the skipper, there are 3 members with boat handling skills to take over.
Mask squeeze	All	Rare	Minor	Mask equalisation. Correctly fitting mask.	Assistance from buddy or 1st aid qualified divers. Refer to medical services for diagnosis & recovery (cleared by a medic).
Nitrogen Narcosis	All	Frequent	Fatal	Depth progression dives prior to diving activities. Clear dive plans.	Ascent to manageable level at onset of condition. Assistance from dive buddy. Reduce depth for remainder of dive
Radio failure	All	Occasional	Minor	Regular service. Coastguard radio check before departure. Leave plan with responsible person ashore with planned return time.	Have handheld radio on board. Have backup mobile telephone on board.



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Rapid ascent	All	Occasional	Fatal	Correct weighting for water (sea / fresh). Well secured weight belt/harness. Maintenance of inflator valves on BCD & dry suit Buddy check that releases work.	Assistance from dive buddy where possible. Direct assistance from surface cover. O2 administration for possible DCI; record & monitor change. Monitor & refer to medical services
Running out of air	All	Occasional	Fatal	All scuba sets to have cylinder pressure gauges. Air monitor & recorded pre & post dive. Buddy checks pre dive	All divers carry alternate air source. Terminate dive
Sea sickness	All	Frequent	Minor	Take appropriate medication prior to departure	If they are going to throw up, go over the side of the boat holding on so as not to fall overboard. Keep hydrated
Separation from boat	All	Occasional	Fatal	Agree drift dive plan with cox'n. Use SMB/DSMB. All divers follow same dive plan.	Carry visual aid detection e.g. Flag, DSMB buoy, strobe, flare, whistle, EPIRB
Shotline deployment.	All	Occasional	Moderate	Ensure rope flaked into bucket. Clear on-board communication.	Have knife etc. ready to cut rope. Provide 1st aid. Refer to medical services
Stings from jellyfish	All	Occasional	Minor	Watch for tentacles in water and on shotline. Divers to wear gloves.	Provide 1st aid. (Vinegar and tweezers). Refer to medical services if severe.
Trips, slips & tumbles	All	Occasional	Minor	Control movement in boat. Ensure all equipment stowed correctly so deck clear of obstructions & hazards.	Remove from danger. Provide 1st aid. Refer to medical services if necessary