

CORRECTED Activity Start Date	CORRECTED Activity Category	CORRECTED Activity	CORRECTED Incident Type	CORRECTED Incident Category	ADDED Incident specifics	ADDED Injury/Illness Location	ADDED Injury/Illness	CORRECTED Terrain	Notes	CLEANED incident report	CLEANED lessons-learned
4/Jun/2017	Trip	Sea Kayaking	Near miss	Informational	water hazard - wake, waves, conditions			water - large bodies, fresh or salt		I have seen guidance for kayaks to have bladders in the bow and stern baffles. I fill in the remaining void of my plastic Necky with bladders for safety per guidance. A participant had a wood kayak with magnets holding hatch covers that had rubber gaskets. He did not have any bladders at all. I mentioned this because I saw water in his supposed waterproof compartments.	I recommend that leaders make all participants do a kayak check along with personal clothing checks, PFDs, emergency kits, etc. Reading off a list and everyone saying "check!" for each item. As beginner's there's always something.
26/Jul/2017	Trip	Sea Kayaking	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	hit/cut - natural object	hand/wrist	injury - laceration, abrasion, puncture	off-trail, cross-country		I was co-leading this kayak trip, on Hood Canal. During a break on a beach, I tripped on oyster beds on the beach and fell to the ground, lacerating both hands. With the help of the other participants, I applied gauze and bandages and got the bleeding to stop shortly. The group accompanied me back across Hood Canal to where my car was parked with 2 of the members towing me in my kayak. I was able to drive independently. I encouraged the leader to resume the trip with the group, and I was able to successfully drive back to Seaside. I went to the ER at Swedish Medical Center on First Hill, where my wounds were treated. I received a total of nine stitches on my right hand, and there was no damage to my hands detected other than the skin lacerations.	Wearing gloves while kayaking is one result that I will implement from this episode. All members of the group have resolved to do an inventory of their first aid kits to make sure they have adequate gauze, bandages, etc. We had adequate supplies, as a group, but it took a while for us all to pool our resources.
2/Sep/2017	Clinic	Sea Kayaking	Significant	Hit, Struck, Cut	hit/cut - equipment, tool	knee	injury - sprain, strain, tear	water - large bodies, fresh or salt	1 of 2 reports	While attempting to enter his boat a participant was straddling his boat and a wave pushed his boat into his knee. He informed me of the injury immediately. I assisted his launch, and he was able to paddle back to camp un-assisted. He tied the injury that evening and took anti-inflammatory medication. I advised he seek medical attention, and he told me today that he has an appointment to see his physician.	We had discussed (and practiced) launching the day before. He was aware of the power of the waves. We can assist launches every time, but then students don't learn to launch on their own, which is a skill an open coastal paddler should have.
16/Sep/2017	Field trip	Sea Kayaking	Near miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	water incident - capsiz	immersion		water - large bodies, fresh or salt		Minor: Group split with capsiz. We started to cross DP as a group - the current looked fast to me (but I think 3 kn is fast) I was closest to the leader when we heard "swimmer" and looked back where the rest of the group was (about 20 yds away?) The ast leaders were with the rest of the group. I think there was just one swimmer. I was directed to continue the crossing alone and go to the opposite shore. I did and was fine, just scared to be "out there" alone.	It seemed like the group got split very quickly, as I recall we were all together when we started the crossing.
21/Apr/2018	Field trip	Sea Kayaking	Significant	Illness or Personal issues (conditioning, lack of skill)	water incident - capsiz, immersion	abdomen	illness - MAJOR lungs, heart, abdomen	water - large bodies, fresh or salt	surgery will be required	A student in the 2018 Everett Basic Sea Kayak Course, participated in the Open Water Clinic on Saturday, 4/21 on Flowing Lake. On Monday, 4/23, he reports that he awoke with a severe pain in his side. He went to Urgent Care and was told it was a hernia that will require surgery in the near future. While it may be that the physical activity at the Open Water Session contributed to the injury, student doesn't report that he felt any pain until Monday morning. I don't have any feedback as to whether student had any symptoms prior to the Open Water session so can't come to any conclusions about the cause.	I can't see that there is or was anything that could have prevented this personal injury.
22/Apr/2018	Field trip	Sea Kayaking	Major	Illness or Personal issues (conditioning, lack of skill)	water incident - capsiz, immersion	GENERAL - usually for illness, describe in narrative	illness - general nausea, vertigo, flu	water - large bodies, fresh or salt	FIRE/EMT response	LEADER Student completed the swim (one pool length, wearing PFD, pulling kayak and paddle). After the wet exit skill demonstration, he attempted that skill. He experienced significant discomfort and exited the pool. Reassessment after allowing him resting time did not show sufficient progress toward recovery and the EMTs were called. EMTs stated his vitals were good, and he had no indications of the standard major concerns (stroke, heart issues). As he was still experiencing vertigo to the point where he was not willing to attempt standing, he was transported to a hospital. Follow-up from his son (who was one of the instructors at the pool) reported that the hospital identified an ear infection that was apparently unnoticed after a recent cold. The indications are that the ear infection contributed to vertigo, exacerbated by the act of rolling upside down underwater for a wet exit, and to direct discomfort, exacerbated by elevated pressure from the water. Participant was discharged same-day and feeling better by the following morning. PARTICIPANT After the first exercise for wet exit from kayak, I collapsed and could not function. I was able to talk. From my point of view the first aid was excellent. I was not improving so I was sent to the hospital by ambulance. Heart attack and stroke were ruled out. Current diagnoses is vertigo related to a sore throat. My son was an instructor at the class and will be able to give more specifics. The goals of the class were clear. The activities were well described before the class and during the class just before each activity. My instructor was patient, listened to my concerns and modified the lesson for me. We approached the lesson in baby steps, by my request. The underlying problem was all mine. I knew before I signed up for the class that I was not very comfortable in the water and that my eyesight was such that I would be disoriented during the specific activity. I thought my sore throat had run it's course before the class. I did not anticipate my body's reaction.	LEADER The usual questions about physical readiness for activity may be less effective in the setting of a course exercise where anxiety about new conditions, skills, and performance can cloud self-awareness and reporting. A public pool is a far less challenging setting for event management than many mountaineer activity locations. PARTICIPANT For me it was the first time in a bunch of new gear. I am not very comfortable in water. I might have benefited from some time in the water, without the kayak, just getting used to the gear (pfd, wet suit, etc).
5/May/2018	Field trip	Sea Kayaking	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	water incident - capsiz, immersion	arm/elbow/shoulder	injury - dislocation	water - large bodies, fresh or salt		I agree with the narrative of this RIR that users believe it is essential to have a safe boater. I agree with the narrative of being able to trust your fellow boaters on a trip. Sea kayaking basic student injured his left shoulder while performing a self rescue on Saturday, 6 May 2018, at approximately 10:30am. Immediately after the injury, the student informed me of his injury. The instructor, student ratio was one on one in chest deep lake water (Island Lake County Park). The student, when asked if he wanted to continue or seek medical attention by the Kayaking Chair, the student stated he wanted to continue participating in the class and performed the assisted rescues successful after lunch. On Sunday, 7 May, at approximately 08:25am, the student contacted the Sea Kayaking Chair via phone, stating he was at the regional medical hospital, seeking treatment for his injured shoulder. Later Sunday, at 5:19pm, the student emailed me (Sea Kayak Chair) with his medical status report: "I thought I would update you after the phone call this morning. I had a great time yesterday and it was good to practice the rescue skills and paddle strokes in a controlled environment. I mentioned yesterday during the training my shoulder was a little sore and I needed to take care of it for the remainder of the day. By the time I left for home it was very sore and I thought with ice and rest it would feel better. This morning it was still painful and I went to the ER for a consult after talking to you and Linda. The doctor prescribed some medication and rest and it was probably a good idea that I had to pass. I need to see my doctor about a recommended MRI tomorrow. Thanks for your patience with this and I hope today was a great time. After a follow up with my doctor we can see about the necessary steps for me to finish the basics class. Keep the white side down."	I need to confirm with the student that the injury occurred when he was capsizing (wet exiting) the second time after successfully self-rescuing initially. If this is indeed true, then improper or not enough instruction was given prior to the second wet exit. There is a great risk of injury when holding on to a paddle with a fully blown up paddle float attached on one end of the paddle (blade). Thus if the paddler capsizes in the direction of the hand/arm holding the paddle, when capsizing in one direction the paddle tries to go underwater but the paddle float won't let it. Thus as the kayaker is capsizing in one direction, say counter clockwise, the paddle with the attached float will want to remain on the water's surface forcing the hand, arm and shoulder in an unintended opposite direction causing injury. Caution regarding the aforementioned was verbally given to the students prior to this incident happening. I will seek out how other branches instructors instruct this segment, hence, so we can modify our program to prevent this injury from reoccurring.
18/Jun/2018	Trip	Sea Kayaking	Safety Concern	Other	party issues - conflicts, misunderstandings, organization			water - large bodies, fresh or salt	Instructor left party	This trip was set up as a student paddle for our basic students. Our Tacoma club decided a couple years ago that we should have assistant leaders for our student paddles for safety reasons. We try ideally to have a ratio of 2 students per one experienced person. So to set up a paddle, I work to get assistants first and then set my number of participants accordingly. I did this for this paddle setting my max participants at 6. Then I had an experienced person ask to join. In my discussion with him, we went through that I needed an extra assistant so I could sign up a couple more people that wanted to join. He agreed to be an assistant and I registered him for the trip as an assistant leader. (He has led student paddles for several years.) I then added the two additional students that had asked to join. When I became a leader, I was told to provide a time frame for the trip, based on our best judgement. I did this, expecting that with a very slow pace and time for rescues we could be back by 3:30. Beginning and during the trip, we had one student that was really problematic in that she showed up late, was not prepared and was many steps behind the group in everything. She could not keep up an easy paddling pace because she had no experience. Because of her, the time frame that I predicted for the trip started to slide. After the first hour, I got a tow on her to help her keep with the group and to try to make up time. The man who was assisting did not want to help tow and my other assistant is not as strong a paddler as I am, so I asked her to stay free as a responder if there were issues. From that point on, we paddled the expected pace, with this problematic person being towed by me. Then we stopped about a mile from the end of the trip to do the rescue exercise students are required to do. I asked each of the assistants to spot two students during the rescues. I worked with the student who was having issues and she continued to have issues during the rescues. It took a lot longer to accomplish the rescues than is expected. Before the students I was working with were completed, the man I had as one of my assistants came over and told me he needed to leave, that this trip was way over the time frame I had set up. I told him I was not comfortable with him leaving but he said he could not get back to the launch site late. He paddled away on his own, leaving me and my other assistant to gather the group again and get back to the launch site, again with me towing the student having difficulty. I feel that this was a safety issue for me, first of all because one person on my trip took off by himself, and second of all, because it left me with a group that I did not have enough responders if an emergency arose. This was especially an issue with me attached to a tow because my reaction time would have been delayed.	Make it clear that the time frame set is an estimate and that the group is required to finish together regardless of time.
15/Aug/2018	Trip	Sea Kayaking	OTHER	Safety Concern	OTHER			water - large bodies, fresh or salt	Guns fired from nearby boats	Weapons fired in vicinity of group. Paddled from Boston Harbor to Squain Island in a cove off the lower Southeast side where the old state park used to be. People or a person shot single and semi-automatic weapons (rifles/handgun?) firing into the trees of the island and into the water from a party boat (pontoon?) with three additional boats tied together. The time was 7:00 PM. We were seventy-five to one hundred yards southeast from their boats. No weapons fire seemed to be directed at or near our group. We discussed calling authorities when a fast boat tied alongside the other boats and the weapons fire stopped. We decided not to call authorities.	Nothing else to report.

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22/Feb/2019	Clinic	Sea Kayaking	Safety Concern	Other	water hazard - wake, waves, conditions			water - large bodies, fresh or salt		<p>On Friday, 2/22 while landing at Clallum Park East, my surf kayak got trapped by dumping surf and significantly damaged. No one was hurt, but there was some risk in the process of retrieving the boat.</p> <p>On that Friday we were driving to Hibuck beach and stopped several places along the straight looking for surfable waves. At Clallum Bay we saw a wave breaking on a reef at the east end of the bay. We drove to Clallum Park East and launched from the beach there. The beach was steep gravel. At launch time, moderate waves made dumping surf which presented some small difficulty in launch, but no significant problems.</p> <p>We paddled to the reef. The breaking waves were bigger, more extensive than what we saw from shore. We decided conditions were not safe for surfing there. We paddled out in to the bay then back to the launch point. We were sure that the swell had increased since launch. From the sea side, waves breaking on the beach appeared larger.</p> <p>A participant landed first, exited is boat well, then got knocked down several times as he struggled to bring is boat out of the surf.</p> <p>I was paddling a Mega Bullett 5 surf kayak. I had the following considerations with this smaller boat. I would take me longer to exit the cockpit. Waves were close enough that I would likely be caught still part in the boat by a following wave. The boat had fixed fins that I preferred to not drag in the gravel. The boat was more likely to be tossed end-over-end by a large wave. Based on these, I decided to exit the boat outside the surf and swim it in.</p> <p>Swimming the boat went slower than expected. The small waves that may have been manageable, passed under me and then a large came. I did not want to be tumbled in the wave along with the boat so I pushed off to the side. I struggled through several waves, got my feet under me, and looked for the boat. I expected to be able to grab it and pull it up the beach.</p> <p>This did not happen. The breaking waves would push the boat up and then the water rushing back down the beach would pull it back into the next breaking wave. It circulated there, out of my reach. The water in the boat pushed all the flotation out of the boat, which we collected. I was able to swim out to the boat but realized that I could not move it and would expose myself to danger if I stayed with it. Next I swam tow rope to the boat, connected it, and swam my self back while two others pulled my boat in. By the time we recovered it from the surf the fiberglass had been significantly damaged in multiple places.</p> <p>There were two critical decisions in this process. First was to land at this beach at all. We were aware of how much the surf had increased, but did not gauge the difficulty of landing through it. If we had, we may have chosen an alternate. We could have paddled west to find a more protected landing. Within a mile or two there was a boat ramp behind a break water that would have provided easy landing. We didn't consider this because we didn't judge the landing to be too difficult.</p>	<p>I took some risk recovering my boat. I was able to move myself in and out of the surf but it was difficult and the margin of safety small.</p> <p>Faced with same situations again, 85% I would paddle to the safer landing and 65% would swim out to recover my boat. I would not let anyone else go into that surf with out a freaking line on them.</p>
16/Jun/2019	Trip	Sea Kayaking	Near Miss	Hit, Struck, Cut	water incident - capsiz, immersion			water - large bodies, fresh or salt		<p>Swimmer was being assisted back into his boat by student who was qualifying for her SK badge with Seattle on this paddle. She had swimmer on the stern (rear) end of her boat instead of on the bow. Consequently when she was sliding his boat into place after emptying it she came within an inch of hitting him in the ear with the end of his boat. I shouted for her to stop and he was able to move over to the other side of his boat while she then got it in place.</p>	<p>Rescuer should have had swimmer move to the front of her boat, not the back. It is important for rescuers to instruct all swimmers unless they are assisting in emptying the boat that they be either on the opposite side at the cockpit or holding on to the bow of the rescuer's boat. This makes it possible for the swimmer to remain in voice/eye contact at all times with the rescuer and safety out of the way of completing the process of emptying the swimmer's boat as needed. While this step is not absolutely necessary it is highly recommended as excess water in the cockpit makes a boat very unstable and increases the chance of a</p>
24/Nov/2019	Clinic	Sea Kayaking	OTHER	Informational	water incident - capsiz, immersion			Water - large bodies, fresh or salt	Coast Guard response to rescue practice	<p>We were practicing capsiz and recovery with a sail and drew attention from a coastguard helicopter that happened to be passing overhead. We were just off the SE corner of Blake Island.</p> <p>Participant was doing the kayak sailing class 1, which includes capsiz and recovery with sail. He capsized, exited and was working on securing the sail to the deck. Because it was his first time, this was slow going. But he was making progress so I let it proceed.</p> <p>Just as this exercise started, a coast guard helicopter passed over us from the S heading north. They circled Blake and passed over us again while the exercise was still in progress. My radio was off but I gave the hand patting head XXXX signal. They circled over us close. Clearly they were concerned.</p> <p>At this point, participant had the sail down and I was occupied getting him back in his boat. Once he was stable, turned on my radio to channel 16. There I heard end of conversation, asking a boat to investigate an incident. Thinking it was us, I called to the coastguard helicopter. They responded. I told them we were practicing recover. They thanked us for monitoring channel 16. I thanked them for watching out for us. The investigation by boat was called off.</p> <p>Interestingly, 15 minutes later, I heard another boat call to see if assistance was still needed. Coastguard station that responded (probably not the helicopter) said it was a recovery exercise and no assistance was needed.</p> <p>We do recovery practice all the time usually with out creating un-due concern. I once had a private boat divert to check on an extended rescue scenario. I've heard stories of people on shore becoming concern. I think there have been some cases of emergency services being called.</p>	<p>Recommendations? Turn your radio on to 16 when doing any exercises that may appear to be distress. I think this situation where one could respond by radio is rare. If someone on shore is concerned, they will call by phone. Private boats might approach to offer assistance. Only larger vessels, distant vessels, and aircraft are likely to try radio first.</p> <p>But it is easy to have the radio on and be ready should someone call to check.</p>
16/Dec/2020	Clinic	Sea Kayaking	Safety Concern	OTHER - Please describe in Incident Narrative.	water hazard - wake, waves, conditions			Water - large bodies, fresh or salt		<p>The designated launch site for the Mountaineers sea kayak outing on Lake Union on 12/16/20, was Waterway 18, a small park that provides shoreline access on north Lake Union. I was the leader for this outing. Before launching, our group observed considerable trash along the water's edge, and among the paraphernalia were several used syringes. I cautioned the group to be very cautious and watch their step, both upon launching and later, upon returning after our trip. I'm concerned about the risk of injury and infection from needles at this site.</p>	<p>I've emailed all Seattle branch sea kayak trip leaders and I have copied and pasted the above report so that they are aware of the risks identified - we have an email group for all of our trip leaders. I'm not planning to launch from this site at this point. I also have contact information for reporting Seattle park problems, and will follow up with a report about the hazards encountered at this site.</p>
20/Dec/2020	Trip	Sea Kayaking	Safety Concern	OTHER - Please describe in Incident Narrative.	water hazard - wake, waves, conditions			Water - stream, creek, river		<p>Very high tides (12.32) at 9:45 am allowed us to paddle a short distance up the main stem of the Dosewallips River. Once we were approximately 100 yards upstream we stopped on a gravel bar for a quick lunch. As we started back downstream we observed that as the tide ebbed the velocity of the Dosewallips River quickly increased exposing drops, waterfalls, and abrupt turns. This made it challenging to paddle back downstream.</p> <p>Two paddlers capsized. Paddlers re-entered their kayaks. One paddler required assistance to re-enter the kayak. There were no injuries. One cellular telephone that was not secured to the kayak deck was lost.</p>	<p>Future kayak groups should be aware that while it is a challenging and enjoyable experience to paddle up the Dosewallips River at an extremely high tide, they should not linger upstream as the tidal waters recede. The main stem of the Dosewallips River is safest to explore at high tide, exit quickly, and then land at the calm channel to the south edge of the park near the picnic tables restrooms for a lunch stop.</p> <p>The positive outcome is the result of the group having had sea kayaking training, experience, correct immersion clothing for the conditions and outstanding team work.</p>