**Southend Barge Match Committee  
Major lncident Plan 2024**

**Preparation :**

A major incident is defined as a serious injury, accident or illness that occur to a Barge Match participant requiring urgent medical attention. If a major incident occurs on the water, the Officer of the Day/Committee Chairman will ensure the safety of the whole group is taken into consideration whilst taking appropriate action to deal with the incident.

lnitially, any vessel involved should be removed from the tideway to allow safe attention to the casualty. If emergency services have been notified, contact must be made with the Match Committee to inform them of the situation. Everyone's safety in the vicinity and elsewhere is taken into consideration, with the aim to isolate any potential danger to prevent the incident escalating. If the emergency services are called this should be done as soon as possible. If any person needs medical attention, their next of kin must be contacted as soon as practicable.

**Managing the lncident**   
Notification of an incident/emergency call comes in. The Chairman and Officer of the Day must be informed.  
Start emergency incident log.  
Collate information: Location - lncident - Casualty information –   
 All details and communications should be logged, with as much detail as possible including messages, timings and actions. Consider the best location from which to coordinate incident. Consider Officer of the Day/Chairman going to incident via safety boat.   
Consider all resources available:  
 Other barges in area, other boats/resources known to be present and available.  
 Contact London VTS by phone or VHF.  
Call emergency services ensuring that the full address and postcode is stated:  
Southend Barge Match Committee, Thorpe Bay Yacht Club, 115 Thorpe Bay Gardens, Thorpe Bay, Essex SS1 3NW.  
Ensure someone is sent to meet them on shore in necessary..  
If the Coastguard, Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade or Port of London Authority have been called: cooperate with any instructions they may give.   
Then inform all the Committee and TBYC officials.

**Tasks to be delegated to include:**  
 Communications with resources at incident   
 Maintaining log  
 Informing members  
Talking to emergency services

Set up incident room in Office or Committee Room.  
Assess risks, prioritise action and maintain communications with incident location.  
Arrange evacuation as required.  
Consider mode of evacuation and location of landing after seeking Coastguard advice.  
Refer any press or public enquiries to a designated member of the Committee, either the Chairman or Officer of the Day

**Suggestions for managing incidents Including:**

1. Serious injury to a crew member  
2. Person(s)overboard  
3. Serious collisions between competitors with damage to persons and boats  
4. Collisions with vessels not racing.  
5. Collisions with moored vessels causing damage.  
6. Boats sinking or taking on water.  
7. Boats catching fire.

**1 Serious injury to a crew member:**  
Unless the boat can very quickly get to a place ashore where help may be found, either call London VTS or call 999, and ask for assistance. lf you cannot get through send a Pan-Pan message on VHF Channel 16 asking for assistance. Only after that contact the Committee. The most likely solution will be that the RNLI will come to your aid.

**2 Persons overboard**  
Unless you have all the facilities for retrieval and have practiced this and can pick the person up quickly, then call for help. First contact other boats (and the Committee), and then contact London VTS. Even if the person is recovered in good time, they should be taken ashore as quickly as possible for medical attention if the water was cold or if they appear to be in shock. Even if they seem OK monitor them closely. Also ensure that London Coastguard etc. is informed of recovery.

**3 Serious collisions between competitors where there is damage to persons or the boats.**   
Both competitors should retire from the race, and check to see if the damage is serious and affects the safety of the boat. They should contact the Committee as soon as possible, and also decide whether they need assistance  
  
**4 Collisions with vessels not racing.**  
The competitor must retire from the race and deal with the matter by contacting the other vessel and by contacting VTS who will want a report.

**5 Collisions with moored vessels causing damage**  
As for 4, unless there was no damage to the moored vessel, e.g. a glancing touch to a metal barge or mooring buoy. Where there was damage or possible damage, VTS must be contacted and the owner of the moored boat must be found. A report must be made to the Match Committee as soon as possible upon return.

**6 Boats sinking or taking on water.**  
The boat should let other boats know and decide whether any assistance will be necessary. Move the boat from the main channel into shallower water and consider beaching the boat. Contact VTS and the Committee, and consider making a Pan-Pan VHF broadcast if it appears that the boat is sinking.  
  
**7 Boats catching fire.**  
The barge should let other competitors know, and decide whether any assistance will be necessary. All barges carry pumps for use in the event of a fire, and provisions from other barges may be helpful. Move the barge into shallower water and consider beaching the barge. Barges should avoid approaching close to the Pier whilst any risk of fire is present. Contact VTS and the Committee.

Note this plan is for general guidance, individual skippers may chose to act differently if they consider the circumstances require.  
It may be modified at a later date, if further information should warrant it.  
  
David Renouf  
Chairman  
Southend Barge Match Committee  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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