



## Safety Alert - Rowing in Floods

There are five different issues with floods. Let's examine some of the Barriers (to prevent occurrence) and Controls (to reduce the severity of harm) for each:-

### 1. The water in flooded rivers tends to move quickly

Barriers include: Start by rowing upstream. Use bigger, faster boats. Stay close to the bank and, if appropriate, the inside of bends.

Controls include: Rescue the crew with a launch. Land the boat and carry it back.

### 2. The water in flooded rivers tends to be turbulent

Barriers include: Avoid areas that can be turbulent e.g. downstream of bridges.

Controls include: Rescue the crew with a launch or throw line from the bank.

### 3. Stationary objects, such as buoys, in fast moving water are hazardous

Barriers include: Take care to avoid obstructions and do not stop upstream of one. Have a coach to supervise the outing and provide an extra lookout.

Controls include: Rescue the crew with a launch or throw line from the bank.

### 4. The water over flooded land may hide solid objects (e.g. fence posts) slightly below the surface

Barriers include: Take care, keep a good look out and use local knowledge.

Controls include: Check the depth and, if necessary, carry the boat back to the boathouse.

### 5. Flood water is often contaminated with sewage, farm animal waste and other materials, and may contain other debris

Barriers include: Avoid exposure to the water. Cover cuts, etc with water-proof dressings

Controls include: Shower after the outing. Seek medical advice if there are symptoms.

## If these are not sufficient then find a land-based activity.

There is more information at [https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/81\\_Flooding\\_2.pdf](https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/81_Flooding_2.pdf) here and there will be more information in the November HRSA Monthly Report. This will be available at <https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safety/hrsa-monthly-report-archive/>.

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