Please note – cleaning events are cancelled if they fall in the location and time period of a Met Office issued weather warning. If this applies for your clean, please contact us ASAP so that we can remove your clean from our database and it should not go ahead.

The method for determining risk, whilst numerical is dependent upon the event leader undertaking the assessment.

* Values of LESS THAN 20 = LOW RISK
* Values of 21 – 37 = MEDIUM RISK
* Values of 38 – 100 = HIGH RISK
* Values OVER 42 = must be subject to a full review and the EVENT SHOULD NOT GO AHEAD until the risk has been fully remediated and a member of SAS staff has been consulted

River Clean Venue: Event Date: Event Timings:

River Clean Leader’s details:

Surfers Against Sewage – River Clean Risk Assessment

For use at all events by volunteer river clean organisers.

(NB: A First Aid Kit should always be available at events as well as the facility to contact the emergency services if needed)

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| **Hazard** | **Likelihood (0 – 10)** | **Severity (0 – 10)** | **Overall risk (Low, Med, High)** | **Who could be harmed?** | **Remedial action required?** | **Is risk adequately controlled?** | **Review and revision** |
| Slips, trips and falls | 4 | 3 | 12 = Low | All involved | Verbal safety briefing should be conducted prior to the event starting. Volunteers should be advised not to climb on or walk across surfaces that could be slippery and to wear appropriate footwear. | Yes | Clean Leaders should determine the risk at their site and advise if any areas are to be avoided, considering weather and terrain. |
| Hypothermia | 4 | 8 | 32 = Med | All involved | Verbal adaptive safety briefing conducted prior to event starting, taking weather condition into account and advising on preventative measures. | Yes | In event of unseasonably cold conditions SAS will advise on dress code and time spent on or next to the river.River cleans will be shortened or cancelled where necessary. |
| Drowning / capsizing | 3 | 10 | 30 = Med | All involved | A verbal safety briefing should be conducted prior the event starting.Buoyancy aids should be worn at all times. Paddlers should be familiar with the craft they are using and not overload collection sacks. | Yes | Review in case of particularly extreme conditions.Paddlers should only use onion sacks.Paddlers are encouraged to stay in groups with at least one whistle per group. |
| Wildlife | 2 | 5 | 10 = Low | All involved | Initial safety briefing should include advising volunteers not to disturb or interact with wildlife.A First Aid Kit should be held on site. | Yes | In case of unexpected numbers of fauna (e.g. many washed up Portuguese Man O’ War) a dynamic risk assessment should be carried out and the River Clean Leader should either reduce the area of the event, change the location or brief the risk to participants. |
| Heatstroke or sunstroke | 4 | 8 | 32 = Med | All involved | Verbal adaptive safety briefing conducted prior to event starting, taking weather condition into account and advising on preventative measures.A First Aid Kit should be held on site. | Yes | In event of unseasonably hot conditions SAS will advise on dress code and time spent on or next to the river.River cleans will be shortened or cancelled where necessary. |
| Sunburn | 6 | 3 | 24 = Med | All involved | All volunteers should be advised to wear sun cream and to cover exposed areas of skin.A First Aid Kit should be held on site.  | Yes | In event of unseasonably hot conditions SAS will advise on dress code and time spent on or next to the river.River cleans will be shortened or cancelled where necessary. |
| Lost child | 3 | 7 | 21 = Med | All children participating | All participants under 18 years-old must be accompanied by a responsible adult.All RIver Clean Leaders are required to declare to SAS that they do not have any previous convictions or cautions restricting them from working with young people or vulnerable adults and as such there is no reason why they should not lead a volunteer event, prior to the event taking place. | Yes | Clean Leaders should undertake a dynamic risk assessment based on the number and age of volunteers to ensure that there is an appropriate ratio of adults to children. |
| Pollution and water quality | 2 | 8 | 16 = Med | All involved | All volunteers MUST wear gloves and wash their hands thoroughly after the event. Volunteers under 12 years-old must be accompanied and monitored by a responsible adult at all times.All volunteers should be advised to seek medical advice if they become ill in the weeks following the event and to ensure they inform medical staff that they took part in a river clean. | Yes | Review in case of particularly high levels of sewage related debris or recent heavy local Combined Sewer Overflow discharges. |
| Road traffic incident | 2 | 10 | 20 = Med | All involved | Ensure all briefings and activities are conducted away from all traffic.Adult supervision is expressly encouraged for all under 16s attending the event. | Yes | Event to me moved to a different area of the river if excessive road traffic is present at the event site. |
| River hazards e.g. weirs and manmade features, overhanging trees, etc. | 5 | 5 | 25 = Med | Paddlers | Paddlers should be warned of potential hazards and boats organised accordingly in the water. | Yes | River conditions should be assessed prior to the event starting and a dynamic risk assessment carried out if necessary. |
| Volunteers coming into contact with hazardous materials | 5 | 7 | 35 = Med | All involved | All volunteers MUST wear gloves at all times during the event.Volunteers should be instructed to not pick up any hazardous materials and to instead notify the event leader.At least one sharps box should be held on site. | Yes | To ensure the safety of all involved if there is any doubt with regards to handling any items found, they should not be handled and any relevant authorities should be contacted. |
| Weather | 1 | 10 | 10 = Low | All involved | Ensure all are adequately clothed to deal with current conditions.Weather forecast checked by organiser in advance. If the met office issues a weather warning, or if conditions are considered averse, the clean is cancelled. If weather changes badly during the clean seek shelter or end the clean early. | Yes | Briefing of participants prior to the event starting. Check the weather conditions beforehand and cancel the clean if the Met Office issues a weather warning or conditions are adverse. |
| Coronavirus measures not met | 3 | 7 | 21 = Medium | All involved | Correct measures put in place and advertised pre-clean adhering to current government guidance. Correct equipment provided at start of clean, hand sanitiser provided for ALL participants to use, gloves and reusable sacks washed after every clean. | Yes | Clean Leaders need to be aware of most recent government guidelines and be proactive in their promotion of the measures. The situation needs to be constantly monitored and relevant actions taken as and when necessary. |