

# SEA TREK EXPEDITION **EMERGENCY PLAN**

**NOTIFICATION:** 1. A manifest containing the following will be held a) on Sea Trek support vessel and b) at the Dampier Camp School and/or c) The local Police Station:

Number of participants  
Proposed route  
Emergency contact numbers and frequencies  
Dates and times of expedition

## **FIRST AID :**

A comprehensive first aid kit will be carried.  
The Expedition Leader to be first aid qualified.  
Participants are to be briefed on the following dangers:

Sharks – whilst snorkelling/fishing  
Cone shells  
Stone Fish  
Blue ringed octopus  
Stingray  
Snakebite  
Sandflies

Participants are recommended to wear adequate footwear for reef walking.

## **SAFETY**

On-shore leaders ( 2 ) to be delegated.  
On-shore leaders are to be briefed in:

Radio operation  
First aid treatment for above dangers  
General safety outlines.

## **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ON SHORE:**

Leaders are to notify the Support Vessel ( if anchored ) radio of the situation. Radios are to be in sleeping cabins with crew at night if anchored or a dinghy left ashore with group.

- Leaders are to provide immediate first aid treatment to the best of their ability
- Expedition Leader will assess the situation and decide if outside assistance is required
- If outside assistance is required the police will be notified by Radio/Radphone/Seaphone/mobile phone from the support vessel.
- If contact with outside help is unavailable, evacuate the injured person/ people to nearest suitable destination by support vessel or most appropriate means.
- If thought necessary the remaining members of the group may be asked to remain stationary depending on situation. Normally, the group WILL NOT BE SPLIT.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER SETTING IN WHILST ASHORE.**

In the advent of the onset of inclement weather that is fierce enough to stop Zodiac coming ashore/or U 15 to weigh anchor , the group is to remain at the established camp. Radio communication will be maintained at all times. On shore will have two radios. ( VHF & UHF )

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDUES**

### **MAN OVERBOARD**

- ◆ Immediately yell “Man Overboard” and throw lifejacket (as far as possible towards the person.) or any flotation device. Crew of vessel to carry out MOB drills.
- ◆ Stop vessel immediately ,if under sail turn upwind
- ◆ Have one crew member maintain visual contact on MOB at **ALL** times and point to the person in the water.
- ◆ If required activate Man Over Board Button on GPS. ( Support vessel)
- ◆ Commence pick-up procedures from a downwind position.
- ◆ All other boats in expedition contacted by radio and to hove to in area of MOB.
- ◆ Notify crew of pick up side of vessel

NOTE : A number of the above actions would take place simultaneously .

### **PERSON MISSING**

#### **On support Vessel**

- ◆ A Williamson’s Turn and track back course to where the person last seen.
- ◆ A PAN PAN radio message sent immediately the person is found missing.
- ◆ A datum for an appropriate search pattern would be established .

#### **On Land**

- ◆ Muster the group and establish where person was last seen.
- ◆ A datum for appropriate search pattern would be establish
- ◆ If necessary, notify the authorities

### **FIRE**

Notify all expedition members of the emergency

- ◆ Muster all students & staff in safe area – pre designated on arrival at campsite.
- ◆ Attempt to extinguish fire.
- ◆ Shut down Gas & isolate fuel. ( If on support vessel)
- ◆ Prepare lifesaving equipment (If appropriate)
- ◆ If on support vessel and if fire is not being controlled send “MayDay” activate EPIRB and prepare to abandon vessel. If on expedition vessel put on life jackets and abandon vessel or jettison burning material/containers.

### **GROUNDING / FOUNDERING.**

Note: Universal 15’s have watertight compartments Do not open inspection ports.

- ◆ Check crew for injuries
- ◆ Check ‘if ’and ‘what’ dangers there may be to crew and rescuers.
- ◆ Inspect vessel and if holed use buckets , bilge pump (If available) and collision mats to stop any further ingress of water.
- ◆ Notify safety authorities of your situation and position. (if appropriate)
- ◆ Prepare lifesaving equipment (if appropriate)
- ◆ Check weather and tidal predictions for area.
- ◆ Sound around the vessel
- ◆ Use anchors to kedge off or other vessels tow off.

### **MUSTERING POINT**

Other vessels to standy at safe disance. There will be a head count of expedition members.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

### **SWIMMING**

Students/adults are not to enter the water without seeking permission from the leaders for local hazards and marine dangers. Swimming will be banned in certain areas and where the strong currents may exist.

Under no circumstances in any area in North West are students/adults to swim at night.

### **USE OF ZODIAC AND DINGHIES.**


#### **FISHING EXPEDITIONS**


- ◆ Lifejackets
- ◆ Flares
- ◆ Radio (Handheld)- Radio watch on support vessel or the beach.
- ◆ Anchor and rode sufficient for depth water
- ◆ Small emergency tool kit.
- ◆ Drinking water
- ◆ Agreed route with Expedition leader plus ETA to be kept
- ◆ Check state of tide and currents that may occur in the tidal range.


### **SHORE TRANSFERS FROM SUPPORT VESSEL**

Depending on distance offshore may require:

- ◆ Life jackets
- ◆ Anchor
- ◆ Handheld Radio.
- ◆ Flares

 All persons are to step from zodiac and dinghies and not jump ashore- check the water first for hazards.

 Where possible fishing expeditions should be in sight of main party or support vessel.

 If the group is split and out of sight of the main group or support vessel eg beach walking or fishing the a hand held radio radio will be carried. Also one of the vessels should be available for each group to act as rescue vessel.

John Lally  
Camp Director  
Dampier Camp School

## **MARINE DANGERS IN REGION**

There are dangers, but provided one is sensible they can mostly be easily avoided. Remember the most dangerous species around the NW coast is man. Far more injuries occurred with giddies, gaffs, fish hooks, knives etc than were ever inflicted by species mentioned below.

### **MINOR COMMON PROBLEMS**

**FISH HOOKS:** Remove by pushing point through skin until barb exposed. If unable to tackle problem leave for doctor.

**Prevention:** Never “swing” handlines .

“CORAL CUTS” Clean with sea water, try to keep out sand. Very prone to infection. Antibiotic ointment. Should not be sutured.

**Prevention:** Wear sneakers ,not thongs on reefs.

“OYSTER ROCKS” Clean with sea water, very often broken shell in wound, prone to infection

**Prevention:** Wear sandshoes or booties not thongs or bare feet on oyster rocks.

**FISH SPINES:** Best advice is “avoid at all costs”. Often travel deeper into skin after breaking off. Sometimes have to be left for a while because transparent difficult to locate.

**SUNBURN:** Remember when near the water ,ultraviolet is reflect up from the sea. Wear hat and shirt, use a suitable sunblock and don’t forget the tops of your feet.

### **LESS COMMON INJURIES**

**STINGRAY SPINE INJURIES:** Features victim wading over sand, sudden severe pain in foot. Small bleeding puncture wound.

**Action:** If near hospital attend ASAP. Remote location immerse whole foot in hot (45 Deg).

**Prevention:** Splash and shuffle feet when wading.

**OTHER FISH SPINE INJURIES:** Features usually handling fish. Small puncture intense pain.

**Action:** Immerse affected pain in hot water or attend hospital.. Serious problem unlikely.

**Prevention:** Avoid handling fish without protection.

**STONE FISH:** Features victim usually wading in rock pools or mangrove creeks. Intense pain small puncture marks very small . Intense pain.

**Action:** If near a doctor see ASAP. In remote location- hot water treatment- then Doctor.

**Prevention.:** Wear boots in creeks. Stone fish hold their spines down to the left.

**HOT WATER TREATMENT:** Heat destroys toxins water should be tested (45 Deg C) .

Continue until victim is able to remove from water without pain.

**CONE SHELLS:** Features – victim recently handled a cone shell. Sting may be painless, numbness, pins & needles of infected area and around mouth & lips, double vision. Progresses to complete paralysis over 30 – 60 minutes. Main danger paralysis of respiratory muscles.

**Action:** Compression bandage to limb. EAR –never give up. CPR if no pulse. Send for medical help condition will improve in six hours.

**Prevention:** Extreme care with shells avoid cone shells.

**BLUE RINGED OCTOPUS:** Features - bite initially painless-blood blister may develop.

Numbness, pins & needles, double vision, progress to complete paralysis. Danger paralysis of respiratory muscles.

CPR if no pulse. Send for medical help . Weakness may persist 24 hours.

**Prevention:** Do not handle small octopus. Beware of apparently empty shells.

**SEA SNAKE BITES:** Features –snakes only attack when attacked or trapped. Eg in a net.

**Action:** Snake bite First Aid.

**JELLY FISH STINGS:** Jelly fish stings from small Jimble to Blue Bottle, Irukanji, and very rarely the Box Jelly Fish. The later seem to occur after heavy rain and are common near Mangroves.

**Action:** Carefully remove tentacles. Apply fresh water infected area. .Severe cases medical help.

