



Pre-Trip Risk Assessment

Pre-Trip Risk Assessment Checklist

What are the hazards?

Weather/Temp Cold/Hot Improving/ Deteriorating
River flow Low / Normal / High

Potential Hazards:

Is the water going down or coming up? Down / Up
 Are eddies easy to catch? Y/N
 Has a guide in your party seen the river at the current water level? Y/N

Access/ Egress

Is it easy to scout or have some pax hike around the rapid? Y/N
 Are you familiar with the area? Do you have a map? Y/N

Group

Experience on the trip Y/N
 Is there an appointed trip leader? Y/N
 Have you done a group check in/safety briefing? Y/N
 Hand/whistle signals and communication clarified? Y/N
 Have you communicated running order based on safety and emergency equipment? Y/N
 Is there an agreement to always stay in line of sight? Y/N
 Does everyone have the ability to self-rescue? Y/N
 Do all kayakers have a strong roll? Y/N
 Do all guides or kayakers have the ability to catch critical eddies? Y/N
 Is there a good plan for a potential flip or swim?
 Have the high probability areas been identified and planned for? Y/N

Condition of paddlers or clients:

Physical: Mental: Medical Info:

Equipment:

Does everyone have a good PFD?
 Does everyone have appropriate protection for the temperature of the water?
 Does everyone have personal rescue gear?

Do you have?

Rescue kit?
 Outside Communication, emergency phone numbers?
 First aid kit?
 Hypothermia kit?

Training:

Swiftwater Rescue training? First Aid/CPR training?
 Momentum Y/N Long Distance Travelled Y/N
 Contingency Plan or Activity Y/N
 What can we do to mitigate or manage the increased risk?

Risk Assessment Evaluation

Based on continual reassessment of your situation.

1. **Here's the situation- incident, passengers, weather.**
2. **Here's what we have- resources: people, gear, ability, knowledge**
3. **Here's what I think we should do and why.**
4. **Here's what we should keep our eye on**
5. **Now talk to me- what did I miss, who is doing what?**



Emergency Management

Emergency Management

Roles to fill during an emergency

Incident leader	may or may not be the Trip Leader
Safety	may be incident Leader's job, as well
Rescuers	folks involved in solving immediate problems and stabilizing
Patient Caregiver	someone's full time job for continuity, highest level of training on crew
Communication	Internal: group, crew, passengers External: outside help, evacuation
Pax Priorities	Someone's full time job to Feed, Communicate and Care for uninjured trip participants
Logistics	Helicopter Landing Zone, shuttling resources, making food, etc.
Resources	What you have with you, or can find; including people, gear, communications, other river parties.

Emergency Briefing Format

Based on continual reassessment of your situation

1. **Here's the situation- incident, passengers, weather**
2. **Here's what we have- Resources: people, gear, ability, knowledge**
3. **Here's what I think we should do and why**
4. **Here's what we should keep our eye on**
5. **Now talk to me- what did I miss? Who is doing what?**

Helpful Questions During An Emergency

- Are we doing everything we can to keep the situation from getting worse?
- Is someone watching over the safety of everyone involved?
- Is there a clear leader of the emergency that is not multi-tasking but delegating?
- Is the patient(s) being cared for?
- Have we called early for outside help? Medical Evacuation? Alerted company, agencies?
- Is someone taking care of all passengers and giving them appropriate jobs, food, water, shade, warmth and honest information?
- Is someone documenting the event either during or right after? Is someone taking pictures and recording witness statements?