



Water Rescue Challenge Programme 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Welcome to the Water Rescue Challenge 2023.
- 1.2. UK Fire and Rescue Services have a number of responsibilities regarding water rescue incidents. The increasing risk of coastal, pluvial and fluvial flooding along with current known hazards require Fire and Rescue Services to be adequately trained and equipped to deal with the risks identified within their authority.
- 1.3. The aim of the UKRO Water Rescue Challenge is to bring together teams of water rescue personnel who are committed to display their ability and also expand their practical skills by learning from, and teaching, others involved in the same field.
- 1.4. The Challenge is open to all UK Fire and Rescue Services.
- 1.5. The skills that teams have developed in training for the event and experiences gained during these days will help to improve the team's skill and knowledge. The emphasis of the Challenge is about improving the skills of the UK Fire and Rescue Services in order that they are better able to deliver a professional service to the public.
- 1.6. The Challenge is aimed at providing a spectacle for the public to increase awareness into water hazards. The public are also able to gain an insight into the variety of skills and responsibilities that are currently required of UK Fire and Rescue Service personnel.
- 1.7. Although one team will receive the honour of best team overall, equal focus should be placed upon enjoying the UKRO experience and using the opportunity to interact with other Fire and Rescue personnel and share knowledge.

2. The Objectives

- 2.1. The Challenge will provide an arena for FRS personnel from across the UK to come together to test their own water rescue skills and abilities against a pre-determined set of benchmarks.
- 2.2. Create a learning environment matching with the ethos of UKRO.
- 2.3. Assess the principles of powerboat operations and handling proficiencies, combined with relevant casualty rescue techniques within the water rescue environment.
- 2.4. Provide a spectacle for public spectators to gain an insight into UK Fire and Rescue Services' water rescue capabilities and resources.

3. The Challenge

- 3.1. The Challenge will be run over two days with a mixture of scenario's requiring the use of both team and personal skills in order to complete each scenario.

The scenarios will also require the practical use of a boat (both powered and un-powered).

- 3.2. Equipment will be provided to carry out the Challenge although teams will be required to bring their own water rescue personal protective equipment (see 5.3) and trauma kit and bag.
- 3.3. Teams will attend a 15 minute briefing including health and safety checks prior to the challenge.
- 3.4. Each team will be assessed during the challenge using set criteria by a team of 2 assessors shadowing participants' movements from within a safety boat.
 - Technical and Personal Skills
 - Command
 - Casualty Assessment and Recovery to Safety.
- 3.5. Day 2 of the Water Rescue Challenge will be a timed event which will include the various casualty rescue scenarios and water rescue basic skills to be demonstrated.
- 3.6. Teams will be allocated 15 minutes immediately prior to the challenge to familiarise themselves with the boats provided for completion of the water rescue challenge.
- 3.7. The maximum time allowed to complete the water rescue challenge course will be forty minutes.
- 3.8. On completion of the Challenge, or if the designated time limit is reached, teams will safely leave the water area and take part in a 'hot' debrief with the relevant assessors. It should be noted that the assessor's decision is final and all participants are asked to respect that decision.

4. The Rules

- 4.1. No team will participate without the written authorisation from a senior manager of their Fire and Rescue Service.
- 4.2. Each team will consist of a crew of **5 personnel**. This crew must be made up of a minimum of two RYA Powerboat Level 2 Operators/Rescue 3 Boat Operator (RBO) or equivalent, and one swift water rescue technician.
- 4.3. Only water rescue PPE approved by the crew's FRS will be permitted to be worn by participating team members but must include:
 - Drysuit
 - Buoyancy Aid
 - Helmet
 - Gloves
 - Boots
- 4.4. UKRO assessors will have overall discretion on the suitability of the teams PPE.

- 4.5. High speed manoeuvres will not be required or permitted during the Challenge. In the interest of safety and with respect to other users of the surrounding area, the use of excessive speed will result in a warning from an UKRO assessor and may lead to disqualification at the assessor's discretion.
- 4.6. Only use the designated challenge area and familiarisation area. Travelling outside of these areas is a safety critical offence and may lead to disqualification.
- 4.7. There will be a briefing for all participants immediately **before** the Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening prior to the Challenge days. It is mandatory that all team leaders or their designated deputies attend this briefing.
- 4.8. UKRO and the Host will not be responsible for any damage or loss of any equipment as a result of participating in this event.

5. Code of Conduct

- 5.1. All participants are reminded that they are not only representatives of their own Service, but also the firefighting profession as a whole and are requested to conduct themselves accordingly.
- 5.2. Both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies are formal functions and teams are expected to present themselves in their Service's shirt sleeve order or corporate wear. Caps are not to be worn.
- 5.3. Participants are expected to be smartly dressed whilst at the Challenge venue, it is preferred that working rig be worn to tour the site, however this can be relaxed to casual wear, so long as it is smart and approved by the team manager.
- 5.4. Full protective clothing will be worn for the duration of the challenge scenario.
- 5.5. It is accepted that the evenings events perform an important part of the socialising aspect of the Challenge, but participants are again reminded to behave in a manner befitting their Service and have due regard to non-service persons who may share the same facilities.
- 5.6. Fair play and good sportsmanship is respected and valued. It is expected from all participants and their teams during their scenarios and as spectators to other teams.
- 5.7. Participants are not to canvass any assessor(s) or official(s).
- 5.8. Team Leaders will be held accountable for their respective teams.

6. Health and Safety

- 6.1. Analytical risk assessments will be available for the venue and predicted Challenge scenarios. Relevant safety points will be communicated during the team and team leader briefings.
- 6.2. Dynamic risk assessments will be the responsibility of the participating team along with the assessors who will be fulfilling the role of safety officers.

- 6.3. Any unsafe or potentially unsafe practice will be stopped immediately.
- 6.4. All activities within the challenge area fall under the control of the designated staff that have been tasked by the UKRO to maintain high standards of health and safety. Teams must play their part in upholding these standards.
- 6.5. No team will be allowed to commence their task without direct approval of an UKRO assessor. This will be subject to all team members donning the required level of personal protective equipment, and all team members receiving the Challenge brief and safety brief prior to starting.
- 6.6. An official acting on behalf of the UKRO, who observes a potential or existing danger, will immediately halt the assessment with a long whistle blast. Any activity carried out after the blowing of the whistle, other than to ensure safety, will be penalised at the discretion of the assessors.
- 6.7. On exiting the water all team members must conform to the decontamination procedures in place before consuming any food or drink.

7. Assessing and Scoring

- 7.1. Each team will be assessed against set criteria relating to boat operations including safety principles, handling techniques and rescue procedures.
- 7.2. Time penalties will be incurred for infringements observed by UKRO assessors against standards set out in RYA Powerboat Level 2/Rescue 3 Course guidelines, as well as water safety aspects.
- 7.3. In order to identify the overall challenge winners, the scores from both Day 1 and Day 2 will be collated and used to rank team's performances:
 - Day 1 will see teams having to complete various tasks and objectives within the course, whilst accruing as few penalty points as possible.
 - Day 2 will also require various objectives to be achieved. However, this will also be a timed event where penalties accrued will reduce the teams score.
 - Should a team fail to attempt any task, then maximum penalty points for that task will be incurred.
- 7.4. In the event of a tie the team with the lowest amount of penalties will be given the advantage.
- 7.5. The scoring criteria used to assess team performance will be made available to teams following the Closing Ceremony.

8. Awards

- 8.1. At each National UKRO Challenge, recognition is given for the performances of the team and team's members in the form of awards. The effort and dedication that has been put in by participants for this Challenge over many months culminates in a formal award ceremony at a prestigious venue, where the following achievements are acknowledged.
- 8.2. Awards are made for:

- 1st Team
- 2nd Team
- 3rd Team
- 1st Helm
- 1st Medic
- 1st Incident Commander

9. Entry for the Challenge

- 9.1. Registration is via the UKRO Academy site and a link will be provided prior to registration opening.
- 9.2. Registration will be open from 1 May 2023 until 12 June 2023.
- 9.3. In order to register a team you will need to have the Team Captain's name, email address and mobile phone number.
- 9.4. Ideally, you should also have the names and email addresses for each Team member. You will not be able to add these later but if not supplied at registration they should be emailed to ggoodman@ukro.org. Any changes should also be emailed. It is important that we have the correct names and email addresses for those attending the Challenge so that information can be directly send to attendees.
- 9.5. Payment will again only be made via invoice and so you will need a Purchase Order from your Fire Service to enter. If you have this available at the time of registration you should add this into the PO box. If not, then it should be supplied as soon as possible after registration to ggoodman@ukro.org.
- 9.6. If you have any problems with completing registration you should contact imarritt@ukro.org.
- 9.7. Registration will automatically close when the 12th team has entered. If this occurs please contact ggoodman@ukro.org in order to be put on the reserve list.
- 9.8. Terms and Conditions of Registration
1. If for any reason a team is not accepted as a valid entrant to the competition all entry fees will be refunded in full.
 2. All entry fees, once teams have been entered, are non-refundable unless the event is cancelled by UKRO.
 3. In the event of cancellation the liability of UKRO shall not extend beyond the value of the entry fees paid.
 4. Invoices must be paid with 14 days of being sent by UKRO by e mail.

10. Copyright

This document is the copyright of UKRO with all rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system of any nature, or transmitted, in any form or by any means including photocopying and recording, without the prior written permission of UKRO, the copyright owner. Licences

issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency or any other reproduction rights organisation do not apply. If any unauthorised acts are carried out in relation to this copyright work, a civil claim for damages may be made and/or a criminal prosecution may result.