

Scottish Orienteering Association

Rescue Plan for Serious Casualty

Scenario	Proposed Actions and Notes	Planning Considerations and Notes
1. Report of Casualty	Usually reported to Finish, but sometimes to Start, Drinks Station or Information	Issue radios (supplied by Equipment Team) to all Starts, Finish, Drinks Stations and Information as well as main Day Officials
	Ensure accurate location of casualty is obtained from person reporting casualty	Ensure blank maps available - both o maps and OS maps
	Collect sufficient details to identify casualty	Information on any casualty should include name, gender, age, clothing etc - avoid confusion if multiple casualties are involved
	Collect information regarding medical condition which will assist assessment of response	This does not assume First Aid knowledge - general observations such as "casualty complains of pain in leg" , "casualty is unconscious" may be very helpful. Additional details regarding site and severity of injury or level of consciousness would of course be very helpful. If casualty is unconscious check for presence of bracelets or necklaces referring to medical conditions or allergies.
	Record casualty details	If possible a record of casualty identity, condition and location should be made and kept at the assembly area. This may become crucial if a multiple casualty situation develops.
	First Aid may be willing / able to enter forest to provide First Aid	Discuss before the event to assess their ability and willingness to help provide first aid in the forest. If no other response is available, it is likely that the First Aid team will try to ensure that an unconscious casualty is placed in recovery position as quickly as possible - this could be achieved with the assistance of competitors and/or day officials.
2. Contact with Emergency Services	If Police on site ask them first	They will be asked by Central Organisation to attend event, usually for traffic management
	If Police not available on site, use mobile phone to contact Police	Check before event that mobiles will work in Assembly area
	If mobile phone won't work, access nearest land-line to contact Police	Check before event location of and access to nearest land-line

	Advise if Mountain Rescue required to evacuate casualty from remote area - Police may advise if on site. [Police will need as much info as possible on casualty condition and location to enable them to make a risk assessment leading to a possible decision to call MR]	Incident management protocol is that Police will make decision to call out MR and will remain in charge of incident. (Usually Police will defer to MR on technical issues linked to casualty extraction)
	Ensure you can give accurate directions to Assembly field, meeting point, etc.	Check road numbers, grid references, names of nearest farms, etc before event
3. Meet Emergency Services at convenient location	Arrange exact location - e.g. Assembly field, road junction, entrance to forest	Beware of event traffic around Assembly area. Ensure adequate officials with ability to stop vehicles to allow officials and emergency vehicles out of assembly and into forest
	Allocate emergency vehicle parking at the agreed meeting point	If MR team is called out they will frequently arrive in a range of vehicles - could be 10 or more vehicles. Ensure a sufficiently large area is available for parking vehicles and equipment trailer/s
	Ensure day officials liaise with Police regarding any actions linked to movements of personnel and equipment associated with casualty search/location and extraction.	Police and MR will automatically appoint incident managers. Ensure that all information, suggestions and decisions are routed through them to optimise deployment of resources.
4. Access to Forest	Ensure that keys are available for any locked gates	Ensure locked gates identified and keys obtained from relevant Central Organisation personnel / land owners
		Ensure Day Officials with keys are available to open gates - find out which forest management group controls forest as MR teams frequently have key sets for main companies
		MR teams usually carry bolt cutters - replacing locks or chains on locked gates is usually considered lower priority than accessing casualty
	Ensure that vehicles can use the available tracks to get close to casualty	Ensure all main officials know which tracks can be driven - on maps if necessary
5. Evacuation of casualty	Check for helicopter landing site on firm ground beside Assembly - looking out for over-head cables and trees	Note: Casualty may be winched directly out of area if badly hurt or in remote location. The possibility of helicopter involvement should not be assumed as being automatic - weather conditions must be suitable to permit flying. The final decision rests with the pilot.

	If helicopter landing beside Assembly is anticipated try to advise traders and club members with tents accordingly	The downdraft from rescue helicopters is considerable and pilots will usually try to keep around 50 to 100m clearance from tents and other moveable items
	Ensure that exit route for ambulance is kept clear.	
Worst Case Scenario - Death in the Forest		
1. Tape off immediate area round casualty	Main Day Official to stay at site and ensure competitors kept away - may have to move control slightly if adjacent to casualty	Ensure all Main Day Officials are equipped with radios. Suggest that it is outwith the qualifications of most lay people to diagnose death - avoid sending radio messages containing assumptions of casualty fatality. Most Police/MR incident managers will respond appropriately to a message "requesting attendance of Police and Doctor".
2. Contact Police as quickly as possible	Use above remarks and planning to ensure easy access to casualty for Police, doctors, etc.	Use plan above to contact Police and work with them and other emergency services on site
	Police will take over situation as soon as it is reported. Work closely with them	In the event of a fatality, Police may treat the casualty location as a 'scene of crime' and apply their protocols accordingly. Ensure area around casualty is disturbed as little as possible. The location may be visited by Scene of Crime Officer and/or Police photographer.
3. Contact family and friends	Contact family, friends, club-mates etc using finishers / enquiries in Assembly Red Cross will have 'quiet' tent at rear of their set-up - use to comfort	Discretion in content of radio messages and in other discussions about the casualty is important - tent walls are no barrier to sound.
4. Deal with any press / media interest	Press may quickly follow any Police activity. Have senior official available to deal with them - provide basic factual information.	Recommend that event officials are instructed not to speak with media directly. Remember that media may monitor radio traffic. Refer all requests for information to the Police who will issue a statement when appropriate.
	Do not allow media personnel near the scene as this may cause distress to family.	Note that media personnel can employ extremely 'persistent' tactics in pursuit of copy and/or photographs.