


GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT 09: Wetland work


ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSMENT DATE	
WETLAND WORK inc PONDS, STREAMS & RIVERS	AUGUST 2014 rev DEC 2021	
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ACTIVITY LOCATION	ALL SITES	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons		ASSESSED BY
risk level: generally moderate except as indicated		GRASSROOTS

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION	<p>Exposure to harmful substances</p> <p>Contact with micro organisms inc Leptospirosis</p> <p>Slips, trips and falls</p> <p>Submerged objects</p> <p>Deep or fast flowing water</p> <p>Submerged objects</p> <p>Weirs</p>
HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Exposure to harmful substances	<p>GrassRoots are unlikely to work on sites with contaminated water</p> <p>Task leader to check with land owner/site manager before task & decision to proceed to be discussed with Committee members if there is any concern</p> <p>On site, if there is any concern over content of water report to land owner/site manager</p> <p>Modify or terminate task where necessary or there is any doubt about safety</p> <p>Do not work on any site where sewage is known to be present</p> <p>If hazardous substances are found, stop work and report to the Environment Agency or equivalent</p>
Contact with micro- organisms inc Leptospirosis	<p>Advise participants to have Tetanus inoculation</p> <p>Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking</p> <p>Do not drink or wash hands in stream or pond water, use clean water and antibacterial wash/soap solution</p> <p>Wear strong rubber gloves and use barrier cream.</p> <p>Cover all cuts with waterproof plasters</p> <p>Advise volunteers of link to Grass Roots website information on Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) to all working in water – see page 2 of 2 and GR22/Leptospirosis</p>
Slips, trips and falls	<p>Movement around and in water must not be rushed, walk slowly</p> <p>Provide grab lines/ropes and non-slip planks or ensure that there is one person always on the bank with access to a rope with float/ring</p> <p>Tread carefully on gravel banks</p> <p>Use safe access points to water , avoiding steep banks</p>
Submerged objects	<p>Carry out a survey of the work area and mark out soft spots , sudden drops, etc</p> <p>Use corrugated iron 'duckboards' to prevent sinking into mud</p> <p>Wear sturdy footwear, with sole and toe protection Wear sturdy rubber gloves , unless using swinging tools</p>
Deep or fast flowing water	<p>Still water over waist-deep or fast flowing water above knee height must not be worked in</p> <p>Waders must be worn for water above welly and below thigh height; chest waders for water above mid-thigh and below waist height</p> <p>Always wear lifejackets when working on or above deep or fast flowing water</p> <p>Do not work alone in water</p> <p>Ensure there is always someone on the banks to act in the event of an emergency</p> <p>Have ropes, poles, and lifebelts readily to hand to avoid others having to enter the water</p> <p>Plan rescue systems in advance</p>

GrassRoots Conservation Group Charity No: NIC102932

This assessment is based on information from The Conservation Volunteers as amended for GrassRoots Conservation Group activities. The information contained in this generic risk assessment is produced in good faith It does not render BTCV liable for its use, misuse and no responsibility for any occurrences arising out of its use will be accepted Insurance is essential for groups carrying out conservation activities © BTCV 1996-2008 Reg Charity in England 261009 and Scotland SC039302 Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 808

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Use of small boats	GrassRoots do not work from boats
Weirs	A specific detailed assessment should be undertaken if work on or near a weir is planned
INDG 84L/Leptospirosis - are you at risk HSE books Extract relevant to tasks.	<p>Leptospirosis/Weil's Disease</p> <p>This is a serious and sometimes fatal infection that is transmitted to humans by contact with urine from infected rats</p> <p>Symptoms</p> <p>Starts with a flu-like illness with a persistent and severe headache, which can lead to vomiting and muscle pains and ultimately to jaundice, meningitis and kidney failure. In rare cases the disease can be fatal.</p> <p>Who is at risk</p> <p>Anyone who is exposed to rats, rat or cattle urine is at risk. Workers in contact with canal and river water are at risk.</p> <p>how it may be caught</p> <p>The bacteria can get into your body through cuts and scratches and through the lining of the mouth, throat and eyes after contact with contaminated water, such as in sewers, ditches, ponds and slow-flowing rivers.</p> <p>How to prevent it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash cuts and grazes immediately with soap & running water and cover all cuts & broken skin with waterproof plasters before and during work • Wear protective clothing • Wash hands before & after handling any contaminated material or clothing and always before eating, drinking or smoking <p>Further action</p> <p>Report any illness to your doctor. Tell the doctor about the task. Leptospirosis is much less severe if it is treated promptly. If your doctor decides you have leptospirosis tell GrassRoots, who must then report it online at www.hse.gov.uk/riddor</p>