

Safety on Board

Enclosed in the Basic Training Pack is the British Waterways Code for Boaters which gives vital guide-lines on safe operation of the boat and other canal side equipment. This publication is also included in the Boat Handbook.

THIS BOOK IS ESSENTIAL READING.

Additionally there are several points which especially need to be noted when taking groups of young people on canals and some of these are set out below.

- a) A ratio of 1 adult to each 3 young people is advised subject to an absolute minimum of 2 adults per boat.
- b) Life jackets should be worn at all times by young people when outside the boat or on the canal side.
- c) The main hazards to be particularly aware of are:
 - Drowning especially in the locks
 - Crushing especially in the locks, tunnels and bridges
 - Asphyxiation especially through poor ventilation at night
 - Fire at all times
- d) Young people should be adequately supervised at all times, particularly when the boat is being taken through the locks, tunnels and being steered. Furthermore young people should not be left unsupervised at any time even when the boat is moored. It is also important that young people are adequately supervised in the boatyard and do not arrive there before staff. Young people are not allowed to walk on the cabin top or the boats gunnels at ANY time.
- e) Leaders of youth groups will be aware of the added difficulties associated with the boisterous nature of a group of young people together. Our experience has been that on the canals young people need particular supervision to make sure they:
 - Do not jump across part open lock gates
 - Do not jump off and on a moving boat
 - Do not run along the outside of the boat
 - Do not stand or sit on the roof or gunnels
 - Do not dangle legs or arms overboard
 - Do not swim in the canal
 - Do not leave young people unattended on the deck
 - Do not allow young people to stand on the back deck when the boards are lifted

Storage space for food etc is limited and to avoid the dangers of food poisoning, groups should not bring large quantities of frozen or perishable food with them.
- f) Young People are not allowed to steer the boat except under immediate supervision of an approved steerer and in a non hazardous environment i.e. not in locks, tunnels etc.