OHBS Risk Assessment

The following list represents the most likely risks that OHBS workers will encounter in undertaking any manual activity on behalf of the Society. This does not represent an exhaustive list; additional risks may exist in some scenarios which also require consideration.

Date	Notes	Author
Nov 2021	Original	MKV
Nov 2022	Annual review	MKV
Nov 2023	Annual review	MKV
Jun 2024	Add Roller Doors	MKV
Nov 2024	Lifting frame	MKV
Nov 2025	Review + in-date consumables	MKV
Nov 2026	Annual Review	MKV

HS&E Law vs Civil Law

An organisation which has no employees but with volunteers carrying out activities, then health and safety law will not normally apply to the organisation. However, the organisation may still have duties under civil law.

Under the common law, voluntary organisations and individual volunteers have a duty of care to each other and others who may be affected by their activities. Where something goes wrong, individuals may, in some cases, sue for damages using the civil law if they are injured as a result of another person's negligence.

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Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Mitigation Actions	Further Information
Exposure to wood dust	Workers risk lung diseases, such as asthma, from inhaling wood dust. Hardwood dust can cause cancer, particularly of the nose.	Where possible use dust extraction (also known as Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) at woodworking machines to capture and remove dust before it can spread. Maintain dust extractors in good condition and working effectively. Wood dust should be cleared up using a suitable vacuum cleaner, fitted with an appropriate filter, not swept which disturbs fine dust particles. Suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) should be used whenever dust is created.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking/wooddust.htm
Machinery	Workers risk serious and possibly fatal cut injuries following contact with moving parts of machinery, particularly cutting blades or grinding discs. Vibration associated with hand held power tools may cause hand-arm vibration (HAVS) or carpal tunnel (CTS) syndrome.	All machines used according to manufacturer's instructions. Guards used and inspected regularly and maintained as necessary to ensure their good condition. Only in-date machine consumables; cutting/grinding discs etc should be used to avoid the risk of fragmentation at speed. Workers should have sufficient space at machines to work safely. Workers to have no loose clothing, jewellery or unconstrained long hair/beards. Workers should be monitored by senior worker in charge to ensure guards always used. Only suitably trained workers to use large machinery, e.g. Bandsaw, Circular Saw, Planer/Thicknesser. All machines braked and fitted with necessary safety features. The extended use of hand held power tools should be with the use of padded gloves and taking sufficient breaks.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/ https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/physical-ill-health-risks/vibration.htm
Manual handling	Workers may suffer musculoskeletal disorders, such as back pain, from handling heavy/bulky objects, e.g. boats, timber boards and machinery parts. Also risk cuts when handling tooling, or splinters when handling wood.	Workers should be familiar with best practise manual handling. Workbenches and machine tables should be set at a comfortable height. Strong, thick gloves should be used for handling tooling and wood. Workers made aware that they are always responsible for deciding whether tasks are within their personal abilities.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/ https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/manual.htm https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.PDF
Eye protection	Flying objects, vapourised chemicals or contaminated dust can damage eyes permanently.	Wear eye protection whenever scraping, sanding, painting, etc as required.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/ppe.htm
Noise	Workers and others may suffer temporary or permanent hearing damage from exposure to noise from woodworking machinery.	Workers to wear suitable hearing protectors. Check and maintain them according to advice given by supplier.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/ppe.htm

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Slips, trips and falls	Workers could suffer injuries such as bruising or fractures if they trip over objects, or slip, e.g. on spillages, and fall.	Maintain good housekeeping - off-cuts cleared away promptly, dust cleared regularly etc. Workers wear safety shoes that have a good grip. Good lighting in all areas.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/
Electrical	Workers could get electrical shocks or burns from using faulty electrical equipment, e.g. machinery, or a faulty installation. Electrical faults can also lead to fires.	A Residual Current Device (RCD) should be used on any extension lead used. Volunteers should report any defective plugs, discoloured sockets or damaged cable/equipment to senior worker in charge. Use cordless power tools where possible.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/
Working at height	Falls from any height can cause bruising, fractures and head injuries.	Transfer in or out of a boat using properly secured ladders or steps. Making sure scaffolding is secure and stable. Use steps to get on to scaffolding.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/ https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/using-ladders-safely.htm
Fire	If trapped, volunteers could suffer fatal injuries from smoke inhalation/burns.	Have Fire Extinguishers near at hand ready to use when using any heat generating equipment e.g. blowtorch or hot air gun to remove paint or heating water for wood steaming. Note: drilling and cutting can generate a lot of heat.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/fire.htm
Spontaneous Combustion	The most common type of Spontaneous Combustion fires are caused by improperly disposed of oil and stain soaked rags.	Products such as oil-based paints and stains, teak and linseed oils, varnishes and polyurethane, paint thinners, etc when used with rags, cloths or towels can spontaneously combust as a result of heating up through oxidation. A substance will release heat as it oxidizes. If this heat has no way to escape, like in a pile of rags in a bin, the temperature will raise to a level high enough to ignite the oil and in turn ignite the rag or cloth. Use a container with a tight-fitting lid. A metal can is preferable, but a plastic can or zip lock bag can work if nothing else is available. Place soiled and used rags inside and then fill the rest the way with water, seal the top and do not open it. This will prevent the oils from oxidizing, and thus keeping the rags from heating up and igniting.	
Chemical Handling Risks	Possible exposure to diesel, oil, paint dust, bitumen, sanded epoxy & anti-fouling vapours.	Extra eye and respiratory protection as judged necessary, use of suitable vapour masks, chemical handling gloves, suitable overalls and read all relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)/Chemical Safety Sheets (SDS).	https://www.hse.gov.uk/chemical-classification/labelling-packaging/safety-data-sheets.htm

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Sharps e.g. nails, glass fragments, screws etc	When visiting an untidy or unfamiliar field site pay particular attention to hazards underfoot. When working on larger boats and when working aboard, pay particular attention to hazards above, under and behind and to knees and elbows.	Make sharp hazards safe as soon as possible. Consider using cut resistant gloves, knee protection and suitable penetration resistant footwear. Wear a safety helmet if appropriate.	
Lead	Workers stripping paint or caulking from old boats may be exposed to dust or vapour containing lead compounds. Lead is a toxic heavy metal - ingestion through breathing dust/vapour of through skin contact should be avoided. Lead putty may be used in some boat restorations.	Local Exhaust Ventilation equipment should be used. The work area should also be suitably well ventilated. Suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) should be used. Suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn to prevent contact with dust e.g. gloves. Dusty PPE should be shaken off outside to prevent cross-contamination. Follow good basic hygiene including regular hand-washing and avoiding hand to mouth/eye etc contact. When working with lead putty double (two-layer) gloving is recommended. Read and follow guidance in the Chemical Safety Sheet.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/harmful/lead.htm
Leptospirosis/Weil's Disease	Workers may at times be working in locations where rats may be present e.g. storage buildings or on a field trip. The disease starts with flu-like symptoms such as a headache or muscle pains. More severe cases can lead to meningitis, kidney failure and other serious conditions. In rare cases the disease can be fatal.	Wear suitable protective clothing like gloves. Follow good basic hygiene including regular handwashing and avoiding hand to mouth/eye etc contact. Take rest breaks, including meals and drinks, away from the work area; wash cuts and grazes immediately with soap and running water. Cover all cuts, abrasions and other breaks in the skin with waterproof dressings and/or gloves.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/harmful-micro-organisms/leptospirosis-weils-disease.htm
Asbestos	Workers may work in asbestos cement clad buildings or may encounter asbestos wrap around old exhaust systems in boats. Breathing asbestos fibres can cause fatal respiratory problems.	No special action is required for working in an asbestos cement clad building providing the cladding is in good order and not shedding fibres. Asbestos cement contains only 10–15% asbestos. The asbestos is tightly bound into the cement and the material will only give off fibres if it is badly damaged or broken, or is worked on (e.g. drilled, cut etc). If asbestos material is found in any boat or maritime artifact this should be brought to the immediate attention of the trustees and no further work performed on the suspect item until authorised by the trustees.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/

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Boat Moving	Heavy boats will need to be moved or turned over. Workers may suffer musculoskeletal disorders or crushing injuries.	Use suitable PPE e.g. suitable gloves and safety boots with toe protection. Where possible employ a suitable cradle, trolley or other lifting gear. Props and supports should be pre-prepared and ready to use to prevent boats falling over. Workers made aware that they are always responsible for deciding whether tasks are within their personal abilities. Have a single competent Person in Charge (PIC) who is responsible for controlling the movement, everyone else follows the instructions of the PIC. However, anyone can call STOP, STOP, STOP to stop all movement if they see a dangerous situation developing.	
Vertical Opening Roller Doors	On opening & closing there is a risk of some part of the moving door catching or hitting items or persons immediately adjacent to or in the path of the door. Head strikes due to insufficient opening height. Unintentional fall back.	Ensure the area immediately around the door is clear of all conflicting items and persons before operating the door. To avoid the risk of head strikes the doors should always be opened to ensure a safe clearance for the tallest persons. No person should be required to 'duck under' a partially open roller door. Whenever the door is operated either electrically or manually there is a risk of component failure resulting in an unintentional fall back (door closes rapidly from height under its own weight). To avoid injury no persons should stand under the door while it is being operated.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/revision-standards-powered-doors.htm https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c9b703fed915d07b0af3e28/06-20180823_Doors_Safety_Alert_2018-06_Final.pdf
Lifting operations	The lifting frame can be used for lifting boats (& other items) typically to aid in moving of boats off or on to a trailer. Workers may suffer musculoskeletal disorders or crushing injuries.	All lifting operations should be guided by the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER). Never work underneath a suspended load and wear the correct footwear. Have a Competent Person in charge who is responsible for planning & supervising the lift, everyone else follows the instructions of the supervisor. However, anyone can call STOP, STOP, STOP to stop all movement if they see a dangerous situation developing.	https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/loler.htm https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/loler-overview.htm

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