

‘The safety of boats as dwellings’

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Background

1. Numbers of boats in Scotland
2. Why boats are used as dwellings
 - Work accommodation – fishing vessels
 - Leisure boats – visiting yachts, privately owned boats and hired holiday boats
 - Residential boats – owned and sub-let
3. Numbers used as dwellings

Estimate - as many as 6000 persons dwelling aboard in Scottish ports/marinas/towns on any one weekend summer night

Main risks

1. **Man-overboard (around 75%)**
2. **Fire (about 8%)**
3. **Carbon monoxide poisoning (about 8%)**

Risk characteristics of boats

- 1. Boats are on water = water safety discipline**
- 2. Boats have living spaces but they are also sealed containers great for keeping water out but equally good at retaining gases and fumes.**
- 3. Boats may have multiple numbers of engines, multiple appliances fed by a range of different fuels, all of which provide the potential for fire or carbon monoxide events**
- 4. Boats are 'unforgiving' and require appropriate equipment properly installed and maintained and appropriate behaviour for dwellers to remain safe**

Risk controls

- 1. Fitness for purpose of the boat including the suitability and condition of its equipment**
- 2. Safety awareness and safety behaviour of boat dwellers = competence best practice for commercial crews**

Risk control responsibilities

- **All boat dwellers**
- **Work environment - MCA, Sea Fish Industry Authority, (Seafood Scotland), MAIB**
- **On inland waters – Scottish Canals supported by BSS**
- **On inland waters – Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NP**
- **At harbours, estuary moorings and marinas - harbour authorities and marina management**
- **Local authorities concerning ‘vulnerable’ boat dwellers**
- **Insurance companies restricting the number of claims**
- **BSS awareness – leaflets, website, BSS Examiners**
- **Fire and Rescue Service - Boat Fire Safety Week and community fire safety initiatives.**
- **RNLI – initiatives**
- **RYA courses**
- **RoSPA initiatives**

Recommendations

- **All interested bodies promote boat safety awareness – (*non-commercial crews*)**
- **Commercial crew competency best practice encouraged**
- **Boat fitness for purpose requirements enforced**
- **Incident data collected and analysed**
- **Necessary risk management measures implemented, (including MAIB recommendations)**