

Athlone Sub Aqua Emergency Call Out Policy and Procedure

1. Definitions

For the purpose of this procedure the following definitions shall apply:

- Emergency constitutes any incident on local inland waters involving persons in distress due to risk to life and/or serious injury
- Emergency Service includes An Garda Siochana, Coastguard, Fire Authority and the Ambulance Service.

2. Policy

Athlone Sub Aqua Club is primarily a sporting organisation. However, due to their specialist skills and the equipment at their disposal, its members may be available to respond to an **official** call out received from an Emergency Service. This voluntary service does not operate on a 24 hours per day/7 days per week basis nor can Athlone Sub Aqua Club guarantee an instant response to any emergency.

3. Call Out Procedure

The procedure for activating and responding to an emergency call out situation is as follows:

- a. Emergency Service alerts Athlone Sub Aqua Club's Search and Recovery (SAR) Co-ordinator or a nominated substitute (see *Appendix A* for contact details).
- b. In the event that any other member of the club apart from the SAR Co-ordinator or a nominated substitute receives an emergency call out request he/she must immediately contact the club's SAR Co-ordinator or a nominated substitute.
- c. SAR Co-ordinator or the nominated substitute should request from the Emergency Service the following details:
 - What the Emergency is
 - Where the Emergency is
 - How many people are involved
 - The risk to life and/or of serious injury
- d. SAR Co-ordinator or the nominated substitute, based on the information received from the Emergency Service will assess the situation and decide on the action to be taken by Athlone Sub Aqua Club.
- e. In the event of Athlone Sub Aqua Club being in a position to offer assistance the SAR Co-ordinator or the nominated substitute will either directly coordinate an emergency response by or arrange for a suitable member of the club's SAR team (see *Appendix B*) to co-ordinate the response.
- f. It is recommended that at a minimum a team of 1 qualified cox'n and 2 members of the club's SAR team attend an emergency.
- g. Only members of the club's SAR team may dive in an emergency situation.
- h. The person co-ordinating the emergency response must ensure that the boat and the members of the club's SAR team involved are properly equipped to deal with the emergency.
- i. A shore marshal must be appointed or the coast guard notified and provided with the following information:
 - Number of persons on board
 - Reason for launching.
 - Departure location & destination.
 - Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) to destination
 - Estimated Time of Return (ETR) to departure point.
- j. Upon arrival at the emergency scene all reasonable assistance must be offered taking into account safety considerations and any directions given by an emergency service.

4. Other

A report on any response by Athlone Sub Aqua Club to an emergency must be prepared, within 7 days, by the SAR Co-ordinator, and presented to the club's Diving Officer.

The only other occasion that Athlone Sub Aqua Club is insured to respond to an emergency apart from call outs originating from the Emergency Services is the obligation for the club to respond to an emergency call received via Channel 16 on the boat's VHF radio.

Athlone Sub Aqua Club does not have the facilities or equipment to deal with boats that have run aground. Contact details for local marinas that are equipped to deal with this situation are supplied in *Appendix C*.

Athlone Sub Aqua Club

Call Out Details

Appendix A: Athlone Sub Aqua Club – Emergency Contact Numbers 2011

Primary Contacts:

ClubPhone:	-	086821 6670
SAR Co-Ordinator: Liam Sherringham	-	086 849 1571

Nominated Substitutes:

Derry McMahon	-	087 252 8060
Robbie West	-	086 381 6058
Bernard Larkin	-	086 355 7458

Appendix B: Athlone Sub Aqua Club – Search And Recovery (SAR) Dive Team

Liam Sherringham	Derry McMahon
Robbie West	Geraldine Forgarty
Piaras Williams	Stewart McMickan
Cian Hynes	Deborah Riley
Ollie Fallon	Niall McHugh
Michael Toohey	

Appendix C: Marina Contact Numbers

Athlone Cruisers Ltd. Jolly Mariner Marina, Athlone	-	09064 72892
Emerald Star, The Marina, Carrick on Shannon	-	07196 27633
Lough Ree Marine Services Ltd. Quigley's Marina, Glasson,		09064 85866
Waveline Cruisers, Glasson, Athlone	-	09064 85711