

Station Name: On Water Safety Monitor

Location: On water at various locations

Setup Items: Each volunteer will have their own kayak and the following equipment: Type IV throwable PFD, bailer/pump, neon vest, whistle, marine radio, and tow rope (attached to the stern or a quick release waist style).

Description: On water safety monitors will be our most qualified paddling volunteers and will be stationed throughout the paddling area to maintain safety, answer questions, and to provide assistance to customers. These volunteers will wear a neon vest to be easily identified. Safety monitors will enforce paddling barriers and escort customers back to the beach at the end of a session. On-water safety monitors need to be on the lookout for paddlers that may have removed or loosened their life jackets.

In responding to safety situations, we will attempt to maintain social distancing guidelines whenever possible. We recognize that at some point, a duty of care to render assistance may supersede social distancing protocols.

The primary method for handling a customer capsize will be to direct or assist them to shallow water where they can re-enter their kayak after it has been drained by either them or a volunteer.

In the event of a capsize, volunteers will:

- *Near shore:* Direct the person in the water to shallow water. Assist them if necessary while maintaining social distancing. See if they can bring their kayak and paddle with them. If not, retrieve their kayak and paddle after making sure they are safe in shallow water (people first, boats second, equipment third).
- *Deep water/away from shore:* Determine if a person feels safe in the water after a capsize. If a person feels panicky, throw a Type IV PFD/cushion to them for them to hold onto. If necessary, let them hold onto the bow or stern handles on your kayak while maintaining social distancing. Never let a person grab the side or cockpit rim of your kayak where they could capsize you along with them. Determine best option of helping them whether it be getting them to shore/shallow water right away and returning for their kayak and paddle, draining their kayak and towing them both to shore/shallow water (trying most ACA rescue techniques of getting people back into a kayak in deep water puts people close together and may not work well for an inexperienced kayaker), or having the safety boat and/or rescue SUP brought out while you stay near the person in the water. ASC recommends that its volunteers that are ACA certified kayaking instructors assist or be in charge of a deep water rescue whenever possible (if not the first on scene of a capsize, one should head to the capsize scene as soon as possible to assess the situation and assist as necessary).
- *In case of a possible life-threatening emergency that may require medical assistance:* Get to the person as soon as possible and determine what assistance is needed. If in doubt, request the safety boat if available and call, or have the beach call, 911. Determine the best extraction point (as depicted on the ASC map and other information) based upon time, distance, shore access, and water levels. If the safety boat is used, make sure the motor is shut off if a person is in the water and anytime they are within 10 feet of the motor/propeller (we don't want to cut off a person's foot and add to the emergency). If the person in distress cannot be brought into the safety boat, set up a safe tow arrangement with the person in the water far behind the safety boat motor (never have a person in the water hang onto the side of the safety boat while the motor is on).
- Towing Tired Paddlers
 - During the time when a tow line needs to be attached or detached, volunteers will wear facial coverings.

Sanitizing:

- Masks must be worn at any time social distancing is not feasible (i.e attaching a tow line)
- All shared equipment must be properly sanitized before being returned to the racks or sheds

Cleanup:

- All shared use equipment must be wetted with the Steramine solution for a minimum of 60 seconds to sanitize it before being returned to the racks or sheds.

