

7: surf hazards

teacher's notes

1) This worksheet is relevant to any activities that take place on, in or around surf beaches or bays. Such activities might include surfing (in its various forms), swimming, snorkelling, bushwalking or rock-pooling.

2) See also notes for answers to Worksheet #6 ("River hazards").

	hazard	risk/s	potential loss
e.g.	sharks	surfing on your own after dark near a river mouth wearing Metro-Man after-shave	being taste-tested by a white pointer
1)	lightning	staying outdoors during a thunderstorm; (even worse) sheltering under a boogie-board	electrocution
2)	steep cliffs	being too close to the top or bottom of a cliff-face	severe impact injuries from you falling on something or something falling on you [could also be spinal injury, or getting wet or breaking bones (depending on what you fall onto)]
3)	changing tides	being in an exposed location & not being aware of changing tide (esp. rock anglers)	fatigue; drowning (1) [In earlier print runs, the option "getting wet or breaking bones (depending on what you fall onto)" wrongly appeared in this column.]
4)	deadly marine stingers	entering the water in Northern Australia between October & April	severe pain; respiratory failure
5)	rough surf &/or dumping waves	just being out there in the first place; (even worse) being out there with your little nephew or niece	swallowing lots of sea-water; being pile-driven into the sand
6)	rips	not swimming between the flags; boogie-boarding without flippers	fatigue; drowning (2) [could also be being swept a long distance from the shore resulting in (at least) severe inconvenience]
7)	wind chill	not wearing proper clothing/gear	rapidly losing body heat [<i>possibly resulting in hypothermia</i>]
8)	wind speed (in open water)	paddling out or sailing when it is too windy; not staying close to the shore	being swept a long distance from the shore resulting in (at least) severe inconvenience
9)	out-of-control surf craft	surfing/swimming in a crowded area; not constantly looking back out to sea	spinal injury (1)
10)	shallow water	jumping or diving into the water without first checking the depth	spinal injury (2)

additional activities

footprints answers

- 1) Investigate standard surf lifesaving signals for a) get out of the water immediately; b) move left or right (in the water); c) any others from the surf lifesaving manual (or diving manuals) that may be adaptable to outdoor education programs.
- 2) Discuss ways of identifying rips. Students could draw rips, showing frothy discoloured water, etc.
- 3) Make a case study of the 5 drownings at Gunnamatta in 1998 (or a similar incident). Go to <http://www.lifesaving.com.au/library/beachSafeSummer2004.pdf> & scroll down.
- 3) Visit a surf venue & identify hazards.