

Scenarios Paddlesport Examples

The following table is a non-exhaustive list of potential scenarios that may be conducted as training exercises or used during the exam. The 'course' column is for the suggested leadership or guide offering, and the 'environment' column is for either coastal or river. The 'scenario' column presents the issue or situation while the 'response' column presents an expected set of actions and decisions.

The actual response by the candidates does not necessarily need to match the one outlined, as there are many factors to consider and address. Trainers should focus on the quality of decisions and actions. This may require questioning and explanation from the candidates for further evaluation. Also, the length of time for these scenarios is at the discretion of the trainer. Some of these can be set up to be resolved in just minutes, while others can occur over a lengthy period of time. It's important that the complexity and length of time should be commensurate with the type of course.

Trainers are encouraged to develop their own scenarios, since these may better match the types of paddle craft, paddle locations, and experiences of the candidates. The important element is to make sure that scenario is suitable and relevant to the type of course (i.e. CPL, APG, etc.) and the scope of that certification offering.

Leader & Guide Paddlesport Scenarios

Course	Environment	Scenario	Response
CPL	Coastal-River	Drain plug missing and SOT kayak fills with water.	Identify there is a flooded kayak, move the group towards a shore area, and empty the water from the kayak. Troubleshoot how to address the missing drain plug.
CPL	Coastal-River	Crack in the hull of a kayak/canoe and it fills with water.	Identify there is a flooded kayak, move the group towards a shore area, and determine the ability for a temporary repair. Consider other options of calling for evacuation, towing kayak, etc.
CPL	Coastal-River	Leaking valve or hole in iSUP/packraft/raft and it is losing structure.	Identify there is an issue, move the group towards shore area, and determine ability for a temporary repair. Options of calling for evacuation, towing paddle craft, etc.
CPL	Coastal-River	Paddler develops motion sickness, they are vomiting, and unstable in their paddle craft.	Identify illness of paddler, ensure group stays together, and provide treatment options (i.e. towing paddler, moving to shore to rest, etc.).
CPL	Coastal-River	Paddle/oar is broken by group member and they are near a hazard.	Identify there is an issue, keep the group together, and move the paddler out of harms way. Options to fix the paddle/oar, use spare paddle if one is brought, and possible towing of paddle craft.

CPL-PL	Coastal-River	Paddler has an emergency toilet issue where it is not possible to go in the water (i.e. wearing a drysuit or needs to poop).	Identify there is an issue, keep the group together, and locate a suitable landing spot.
CPL-PL	Coastal-River	Paddler takes off their PFD because of heat and/or general discomfort.	Identify that there is an issue, remind the paddler about the importance of wearing the PFD, check if there are any underlying reasons for removing, and do a thorough check with the group.
CPL-PL	Coastal-River	Paddler gets into the water to cool off and they are separated from the kayak/SUP/canoe/raft and paddle.	Identify there is an issue, keep the group together, and get the paddler to their kayak.
CPL-PL	Coastal-River	Paddler falls off their kayak/SUP/canoe/raft and they are unable to get back on.	Identify there is an issue, keep the group together, troubleshoot with paddler in remounting their kayak, and follow up with group and paddler.
PL	Coastal	Paddler loses vision (i.e. loss of contacts, glasses, etc.) in an area without an immediate landing and unable to resolve on water.	Identify there is an issue, keep the group together, troubleshoot how to move the paddler to landing location and land, follow through and evaluate actions as they go, and check in with group before continuing upon addressing vision loss.
PL	River	Paddler has partial vision loss in low difficulty rapid section without immediate landing.	Identify there is an issue, address the group about locations to be in the river section, troubleshoot how to support/assist paddler through rapid section to landing location, act on plan and adjust as needed, and check in with group before continuing on upon addressing of vision loss.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Paddler has an emergency toilet	Identify there is an issue, keep the group together, and locate

		issue.	a suitable landing spot.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Lost / broken paddle near rocks.	Alert group about rescue, be directive with the paddler, select method to get paddler away from danger, and follow up with paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Broken foot pegs and lack of control.	Identify there is an issue, address group about positioning, troubleshoot with paddler to address issue, and then follow up with paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Severe asthma attack.	Identify there is an emergency, address group about positioning, figure out problem of no medication, begin towing paddler to location for emergency rescue, contact emergency services, and continue to assess paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal	Severe sea sickness.	Identify that there is an issue, address the group about positioning, figure out needs of paddler, begin towing paddler to location for recovery, and continue to assess paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Cut on hand and unable to paddle	Identify that there is an issue, address the group about positioning, figure out the severity of injury to the paddler, begin towing the paddler to location for recovery, and continue to assess the paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Paddler departs from sight and leaves the group.	Identify there is an issue, address group about positioning and plan of action, locate paddler, and reinforce expectations to paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal	Paddler is unable to control their kayak/canoe/SUP/packraft with wind.	Identify there is an issue with the paddler, address the group about positioning, troubleshoot with the paddler about

			difficulty, provide tips around ruddering/speed/sweeps/edge, and continue to assess paddler and group.
PL-APL	Coastal-River	Two paddlers collide and break paddle/oar	Identify that there is an issue, address the group about staying together and possible assistance, rescue paddlers from water, check for injuries, use spare paddle/oar, and continue to assess paddler and group.
APL	Coastal	Paddler capsizes in a rock garden / surf / current zone with a potential shoulder dislocation.	Identify there is an emergency, and promptly address the group while beginning a rescue, environment and conditions factored into steps taken to get the paddler out of the high risk area and back onto their paddle craft. Once risk to paddler and group is suitable, addressing injury and determining possibility of evacuation or need for rescue. Trainer may either conclude with partial evacuation, mock call for rescue, and/or questioning.
APL	River	Paddler gets stuck in a hole and is underwater for a considerable time. They flush downstream and are separated from their craft and appear unconscious.	Identify there is a life threatening emergency, and promptly address the group while beginning a rescue, river environment and features factored into steps taken to get paddler to suitable location with priority of face out of water, paddler becomes alert upon reaching shore, conduct a patient assessment and ensure paddler's equipment have been collected. Trainer may conclude with questioning.
PG	Coastal	Paddler cannot keep pace with the group for a must make crossing in a multi-day expedition environment. .	Identify the issue and discuss potential for towing with group - ideally this has been addressed prior to this point. Coach paddler for higher performance, try to get them to match cadence with another paddler, prepare the paddler for a tow.
PG	Coastal	Paddler in a loaded kayak on a multi-day expedition has capsized	Identify the issue and consider potential actions which would include moving the paddler from danger/dynamic water to

		and exited out of his or her boat in a section of confused waves and converging winds (e.g., clapotis, haystacks) around a point. .	calmer water, if possible, for an assisted rescue; providing paddler support via having another paddler beside them after the rescue; or putting them in a rafted tow. Give other paddlers in the groups guidance as to where to wait, how to help with the rescue, positioning. etc.
PG	Coastal	Paddler is on a remote multi-day expedition with several of her friends. After a four hour ferry ride and a short crossing, it is clear their paddling skills are significantly weaker than their friends. They quickly decide that they want to bail out on the trip and return home.	Identify the issue and consider potential solutions, including whether or not there is a possible bail out point; ways to equalize skills; reassessing the trip plan; discussing options with the entire group; working with paddler individually on skills, attitude, physical issues, boat fit, etc.
PG	Coastal	Group on a multi-day expedition is making a three mile crossing and fog rolls in. Based on the chart, there is an island close to the middle of the crossing. Participants are concerned they cannot see land in any direction.	Ensure you have documented bearings for the day prior to launching. Reassess position and consider aiming off to ensure that you hit the island. Find the bearing from the island to the other side of the crossing. Ensure tide/current and wind are considered in the decision making. Discuss navigational skills necessary for leading groups.
PG	Coastal	A paddler on your trip has the skills and experience necessary to participate in the multi-day expedition but his/her personality is causing a negative dynamic among the group.	As a guide, you must address the issue and find ways to creatively separate the problem paddler from the rest of the group. Distract them with tasks that they are well-suited for; address them individually to make them aware of the issue and identify ways to mitigate the problem. Find ways to engage them creatively to minimize the conflict with others.
PG	River	A paddler on a multi-day trip seems	Suggested steps involve asking a co-guide if they've also

		<p>to be showing a change in energy and performance. Earlier on they were eddy hopping and always near the front. Now they are always towards the back and seem to struggle with moves they were able to make earlier.</p>	<p>observed this and determining an approachable way to speak with the paddler, whether that's being direct or starting with other things first. The paddler is hesitant to discuss initially, and after some continued conversation they mention that they've developed a rash and irritation from BLANK (area specific to craft i.e. buttocks, thighs, feet, etc.). You stop the group to check out the area and provide some options to help address (i.e. creams, salves, padding, etc.) with continued monitoring and care at camp.</p>
PG	Twilight-Night	<p>During a twilight paddle, a paddler's lights stop working, and they become frightened.</p>	<p>Trainer may run this as an actual scenario, or use this as a discussion during the twilight-night paddle.</p> <p>Suggested steps involve stopping the group's progress and getting everyone together at a suitable location that can be maintained and aware of the approximate location. Focus on listening to and validating the paddler to determine if this is a simple solution of getting them a spare light, or if this is a more complex fear. This should also involve addressing the rest of the group as they too may become scared or frustrated with the situation.</p> <p>Culmination of scenario is up to trainer, whether that involves getting the group off the water as soon as possible or continuing the paddle with monitoring the condition of the paddler.</p>
PG	Camp	<p>Trip members set up their tents underneath trees in poor health with large dead branches, and they seem unwilling to relocate them.</p>	<p>As a guide, ensure that you focus on the key reasons, mainly safety, when speaking with the trip members about needing to move their tents. If needed you can focus on this being mentioned beforehand, so it's important to do a thorough</p>

			check and ask before beginning. You can offer to help and/or get others involved to make the process quicker.
APG	Coastal	Paddler gets surprised by long period swell paddling through an area with boomers, and they are washed up onto a boulder. After several larger waves come through, they are still on the boulder with a leg injury with their paddle craft in the water.	Suggested steps involve getting the group to a less risky location and having someone be on the lookout for incoming swell. Make a 'scene safety' decision and figure out a plan of action for getting the paddler off of the rock, gathering their paddle craft and equipment, getting them back to their paddlecraft, determining the severity of their injury, and where/when treatment will be provided.
APG	River	<p>Part 1: Upon entering a river section with limited eddies and shore access (i.e. canyon section), one of the paddlers smashes their face and nose with their paddle shaft. They are screaming with blood rushing down their face.</p> <p>Part 2: After reaching the paddler and beginning care, they touch their nose and faint. They remain painfully responsive for about 2 minutes before regaining consciousness.</p>	<p>Suggested steps involve addressing the group as a whole to get to secure places (i.e. river eddies, shore locations, etc.). Quickly getting to the paddler as you begin to address them. Ensure that you and the paddler are in a secure place to provide care, whether that is on the water in kayaks or getting on the river bank. Do a verbal and visual check with your group and possibly make changes as needed for supervision and if assistance is needed in providing care. Conduct a primary assessment of the paddler and begin a secondary assessment.</p> <p>When the paddler faints, make sure their airway is open and start back with primary assessment before moving onto secondary assessment. Nothing abnormal is found with the paddler's physical exam or vitals outside of 2 minutes of being responsive to painful stimuli. When the paddler resumes consciousness, continue with patient care. Injuries found are a suspected facial fracture and/or damage to nasal cartilage along with a lapse in consciousness that may be a</p>

			<p>result of pain from them touching their nose.</p> <p>Culmination of scenario involves preparing either for a self-supported evacuation or calling for a rescue.</p>
APG	Night	<p>During the night paddle, a paddler goes missing on the water.</p>	<p>NOTE: This should be run as a training exercise without having someone go 'missing' to avoid a scenario becoming an incident.</p> <p>Suggested steps are to do a quick signaling for the person by available means (i.e. voice, lights, radio, etc.) then have the entire group come together at the closest possible location that is able to be maintained and approximate the exact position. Gather quick information about timeframe of when last seen and specifics of paddle craft and clothing, and if possible location last seen. Location and environment dependent, choose a suitable search method that reduces other people getting lost that includes how much time is allotted before returning to a set location, what to do if they find them, and what to do if they get into trouble.</p> <p>Culmination of the scenario is up to the trainer.</p>
APG	Camp	<p>During an evening following dinner, you do a head count, and there are two trip members missing, and other members mention the two people talking about a night time swim.</p>	<p>Suggested steps are to have the group with headlamps carefully and quickly help to check their tents, the toilet spot, and the potential nearby area to swim and then return to a central meeting point. If not found during this quick search, then the guide should have small groups form, review quick clothing and identifiers of the two members, and thoroughly check specific areas of the nearby campsite with a timeframe to meet back. The areas by the water are a high priority with</p>

			calling their names and allowing time for a response.
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