

RiverWatch On-Site Safety Briefing

Three topics • Three points each • Three minutes total

I'm a certified commercial raft guide and I'll be looking after your safety and well-being today. Before heading out on our river adventure, we have a few safety items to cover.

You don't need to be a good swimmer for this trip. However, there are all the usual risks associated with water activities at a swimming pool or beach, along with additional hazards because we are on moving water.

You'll need to understand three topics in this safety briefing:

1. The Plan

We'll be traveling by raft on the _____ River.

- The route is _____ km between _____ and _____, and along the way, we'll pass under bridges and likely make shoreline stops.
- This is a Grade I river with at most, Class 1-2 rapids – this is the easiest paddling river possible.
- There will be toilets at _____, and the trip will finish at _____ p.m.

2. Hazards

We're going to watch out for three river hazards today.

- River Obstacles (Rocks) – bridge pillars and rocks
- Fallen Trees (Wood) – strainers below water and sweepers above water
- Falling Overboard (Water) – not likely, but possible

3. Response

We're in the City of _____ all day. I carry a cell-phone for 911 calls, a first-aid kit, throw rope, and an emergency response plan. Our response for hazards will be:

- River Obstacles – listen to my paddling commands; paddle as I ask and hard when we must
- Fallen Trees – listen to my paddling commands; paddle as I ask and hard when we must
- Falling Overboard
 - We wear properly fitted lifejackets at all times, even during shoreline stops.
 - If you go overboard, do not stand up – instead, use the defensive swim position like this demo.
 - Grab something (a raft rope; extended paddle; or thrown rescue rope)

Questions?

Review – What's the plan? What are the three hazards? Three responses?

Medical Concerns - Okay then, if anyone has a personal medical or water concern that I should know about, please speak to me in private before we begin the float trip.