



Operations Notice No 7

Stepping onto a pontoon/quayside to secure mooring lines during berthing operations.

Following a recent incident whereby a volunteer slipped into the water whilst stepping ashore during mooring operations it is deemed appropriate to remind volunteers of the need to take great care and to follow the basic rules:-

- Position yourself at the rail at a point where the distance to step will be at a minimum, this will normally be near the point of maximum beam and ideally near the shrouds.
- Position yourself outside the guardrail facing inboard but do not take up this position until shortly before you are required to step ashore.
- Do not step off with a mooring rope in your hands, both hands should be free to hold onto the shrouds/guardrail. The mooring rope may be left hanging on the guardrail where it can be grabbed once you are safely ashore or may be passed to you by another crew member. If the rope is left on the guardrail ensure that the bulk of the rope is safely on the deck of the boat, do not leave a coil of rope which could fall into the water and possibly foul the propeller.
- If the boat is not close enough to the pontoon/quayside for you to step **Do Not Jump**, wait for the Skipper to re-position the boat closer or step back inside the guardrail and pass the rope to someone else who may already be ashore.
- Due to the high freeboard of Challenge Wales the drop to the pontoon may be as much as 1 metre, are you the right person to be undertaking this task?
- In wet conditions be aware of the potential slippery surface of some pontoons/quaysides.
- Do not step ashore if the boat is travelling too quickly, the boat should be almost stopped or stopped before you disembark.
- Look carefully at the point ashore where you will be stepping for hazards such as cleats or other obstructions.
- Listen to the Skipper for instructions.
- If the ambient lighting is poor get another crew member to illuminate the area that you will be stepping onto with a torch.
- If in any doubt **Don't Do It**.

Andy Hall

Andy Hall
Marine Operations

Date; 20/10/2014