

Safety Alert - Safety Equipment can save your life

We continually emphasise the importance of wearing a correctly fitted and properly maintained lifejacket at all times when afloat in a launch and the importance of the correct use of a kill-cord when driving. A recent incident demonstrates the effectiveness of both of these actions.

A coach restarted an engine, afloat, after it had stopped while it was idling slowly. It was put into forward gear when it was fast idling. The boat moved forward while the coach was still standing in the stern and the coach was thrown out of the launch into the river.

The kill cord stopped the engine and coach's lifejacket deployed. The coach then swam back to the launch and held onto it while the quad being coached towed the boat to the shore.

The cox of a passing 8 was alerted to the situation and immediately called 999 for assistance. He kept his boat stationary but clear of the launch so as not to impede the approach of the Lifeboat.

The Lifeboat arrived soon after and, by this time, the coach had reached the shore. The Lifeboat crew re-started the engine and escorted the launch back to the boathouse.

There is more information on the correct use of a kill-cord in the Safety Alert on Launch Driving at <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Safety-Alert-February-2015-Launch-Driving.pdf> . There is more information on the correct use and checking of Lifejackets at <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Safety-Alert-February-2015-Lifejackets.pdf>

Use safety equipment correctly, it can save your life

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[This Safety Alert is a safety guidance document. Please read our safety message and disclaimer in RowSafe.](#)