



## **YBC Fire Safety Policy**

This policy defines the arrangements for fire prevention as well as the actions to be taken by members of Yare Boat Club (YBC) in the event of a fire hazard. All members should have a working knowledge of this safety policy.

The Club will fully comply with British Rowing guidelines set in 'RowSafe' (2019). It is intended that nothing in this document should conflict with this.

Most fires are started by faults in electrical installations or by the proximity of a heat source and fuel.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on club premises.

### **Front boathouse:**

1. The club will ensure that all electrical equipment is properly maintained. PAT tests are to be carried out on portable appliances annually.
2. Fan heaters should not be moved when switched on and should never be left on unattended. They should be positioned in a way that they cannot be accidentally knocked over. Members must not stand too close to a fan heater as clothes may catch fire, nor should they put any objects too close to or on top of the fan heaters.
3. In the event of electrical equipment catching fire:
  - a) turn off the electricity supply to the boathouse (the fuse box is in the top right corner going into the main doors to the front boathouse);
  - b) unplug the appliance on fire;
  - c) throw a bucket of water onto the appliance.Note that water should never be thrown onto greasy / fatty food on fire.
4. Fire blankets should only be used by members who have received training in their correct use, since it is quite easy to be burnt from their inappropriate use otherwise. They should be used only after turning off the electricity supply and unplugging the appliance (see 3a and 3b above).

### **Back boathouse:**

Up to 30 litres of petrol can be stored without informing the local Petroleum Enforcement Authority (PEA). This amount of fuel constitutes very low risk provided the following precautions are followed.

1. The fuel should only be decanted far away from any source of ignition. In the case of the back boathouse the only potential sources of ignition is the hot engine of the launch. The petrol should ideally be decanted outside. If the launch has been used and its engine is hot, petrol should be decanted well away from the engine.
2. The gas cylinders for the BBQ must be stored outside the boathouse.

**Arrangements in the event of a fire:**

In the event of one of the small electrical appliances catching fire in the front boathouse, the procedure described above should be used by one or two club members who have received basic fire safety training.

All other club members should evacuate the clubhouses and assemble in the cleared area next to the slipway.

In the case of a fire that cannot be controlled, the club must be immediately evacuated using the ferries.

**Relevant regulations:**

The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR) The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

For further information see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/fire.htm>

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/6.-Storage-of-petrol.pdf>

Manuela Martino, October 2019/Reviewed Jan 2024