



Tor Bay Harbour Safety Policy

Health and Safety Management System;

Torbay Council, through its Tor Bay Harbour Committee (TBHC), has adopted a health and safety management system in compliance with the principles set out in the Port Marine Safety Code.

The health and safety management system includes policies for emergency plans, conservancy, environment, management of navigation, pilotage and marine services.

Tor Bay Harbour Committee will on behalf of Torbay Council provide a safe harbour within the limits of their jurisdiction, which is open to the public for recreation and the transportation of passengers and goods. It will ensure the safety of Tor Bay Harbour by exercising its statutory functions to a high standard. The TBHC will regulate the use of the harbour by maintaining appropriate byelaws and ensuring that these and other statutory regulations are enforced. The TBHC will ensure that an efficient pilotage service is available and that pilotage directions are maintained and reviewed regularly. The TBHC will ensure such marine services as are required for the safe use of their harbour are available and are well maintained and operated. Tor Bay Harbour Committee will ensure that up to date plans are available to deal with emergencies and that the resources required to implement these plans are maintained and exercised.

Existing powers shall be reviewed on a periodic basis, to avoid a failure in discharging duties or risk exceeding powers.

The Policy incorporates input from officers, from staff and from harbour users as high standards of safety can only be achieved through dialogue and co-operation.

Plans and reports will be published as a means of improving the transparency and accountability of the harbour authority, as well as providing reassurance to the harbour users. TBHC will consider past events and incidents so as to recognise potential dangers and identify the means of avoiding them.

The Aims of the Safety Management System of Tor Bay Harbour Committee

1. To identify, quantify and manage the significant marine risks associated with the waters and harbour activities of Tor Bay. This will ensure there is proper control of ship movements by, where necessary, regulating the safe arrival, departure and movement within the harbour of all vessels.

2. To maintain, protect, improve and regulate the safe navigation of all vessels in Tor Bay.
 - To ensure that Tor Bay and its enclosed harbours remain safe areas for all harbour users to undertake their business and activities, with the risk of injury as low as reasonably practical
 - To have an effective system for promulgating navigation warnings affecting the Harbour.
 - To consider the effect of weather on harbour safety and see that the broadcast warnings are accessible.
 - To designate suitable anchorages.
 - To monitor lights and marks used for navigation.
 - To keep the need for pilotage under review and authorise suitably trained and experienced pilots to provide an efficient pilotage service.
 - To provide resources to deliver marine services, such as the provision of harbour patrol craft.
3. To ensure that suitable plans for emergencies are maintained, regularly updated and exercised, so that TBHC will respond rapidly and effectively to emergency incidents to minimise the impact.
4. To carry out all its functions with special regard to the possible environmental impact, protecting from damage and pollution the marine environment and the landscape, heritage, amenity and tourism attractions of the Tor Bay coastline.
5. To maintain an up to date set of byelaws in consultation with harbour users and enforce them so as to regulate harbour use effectively.
6. To set up controls for personal safety to :-
 - Safeguard Harbour users', employees, those working in harbours, port users and the public whilst within areas under the TBHC's control.
 - Control the risk of exposure to criminal and civil liability.
 - Involve all stakeholders in management of marine safety and raise awareness of marine safety risks and prevention, control and management of risks.
 - Consider the effects on harbour safety of proposed changes in use or harbour works.
 - Operate within policies developed specifically to address marine issues in addition to the corporate policies and procedures agreed by the Council.
 - Confirm the roles and responsibilities of key personnel at the harbour authority.
 - Outline present procedures for marine safety within the harbour and its approaches.
 - Measure performance against targets, after building a database recording incidents, including near misses.
 - Refer to emergency plans that would need to be exercised.
7. To audit the safety management system on an annual basis.

8. To keep duties and powers under review.

All employees have a duty to:

- Take care regarding their own health and safety and that of other harbour users and of those who might be affected by their acts or omissions.
- Comply with all harbour safety procedures laid down by Tor Bay Harbour Committee.
- Ensure that marine operations are undertaken in a safe manner.
- To report hazard, risk, accident, incident or near miss to their Safety Officer.

Harbour users operating commercially and the public using the Harbour for pleasure are responsible for :

- Their own health and safety and that of other harbour users and the public who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
- Complying with byelaws, directions and other regulations aimed at ensuring the safe use of the Harbour.

Nominated Harbour Safety Officers

Mr Dave Bartlett at Brixham, Mr Nick Burns at Torquay and Mr Simon Pinder at Paignton are the safety officers for these areas. In their absence, urgent harbour safety matters shall be referred to the Tor Bay Harbour Master. The Safety Officers are also the “competent persons responsible” for fire safety.

Emergencies in the Harbour

Emergencies where life is in danger must be notified at once to the emergency services by dialling 999 or through VHF channel 16. Other emergencies shall be notified to the Duty Harbour Master by the quickest available means.

Reporting of Accidents, Incidents and Near Misses

The public are asked to bring matters of safety - all accidents, incidents and near misses – promptly to the attention of the Harbour Master or the Harbour Safety Officer at the nearest Harbour Office.

The Harbour staff are obliged to record all incidents/accidents/near misses on the Safety Management System (MarNIS). The reports will be used to review accidents and incidents, for assessing whether any action is necessary to reduce the risk of recurrence. It shall be recorded that the Executive Head of Business Services has conducted this review and that the necessary actions have been taken. This will be an assessment of the effectiveness of the harbour safety management system.