



NCI FLEETWOOD TRAINING MANUAL

PART 5

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

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PART 5

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Introduction

Watchkeepers must be aware of hazards in the vicinity of the watchstation, including local conditions, which may increase the risk to those using the sea and coastal area. This includes risks to their own health and safety.

Should wind speed be at Force 12 on arrival or become force 12 during a watch then the watchkeeper should not enter the tower, or should vacate the tower, whichever is appropriate. The Operations Manager (or in his/her absence the Station Manager) must be informed in order that in turn Holyhead Coastguard is informed that the Watch is non-operational until further notice.

Local Features

Watchkeepers should be familiar with the names and locations of key local features within the view of the watchstation, such as

- Perch 050° 1.3nm
- Wyre Light 017° 1.8nm
- King Scar Buoy 325° 2.1nm
- Danger Patch 317° 2.6nm
- Yellow Marker 1 267° 1.1nm
- Yellow Marker 2 271° 1.6nm
- Yellow Marker 3 278° 2.2nm



Natural Hazards

Tidal Conditions.

A thorough understanding of local tidal conditions and an hour by hour appreciation of the condition of the tide will assist a watchkeeper to anticipate potential dangers.

Sandbanks.

There are many sandbanks in the vicinity of Rossall Point watchstation and they constantly change shape and location especially after stormy weather. These can cause difficulties for vessels operating close to the shore.

Watchkeepers need to be aware of people walking out to the island, jet skis and mlo boats going to the back of the island at low water because we lose sight of them. Watchkeepers also need to be aware of and keep an eye upon bait diggers and shrimpers, most of whom are local and have knowledge of the beach and tides, but sometimes 'amateurs' will participate in such activities without local knowledge.

Groynes, tidal lagoons, shifting sands and mud holes can also be potentially hazardous to beachgoers especially at low tide

Local Wind Effects.

At Fleetwood an offshore wind coupled with an out-going tide can cause inflatables and small rowboats or dinghies to drift out to sea. Watchkeepers must be aware of this danger and watch for vulnerable craft at these times.

Vessel recognition

Watchkeepers should be familiar with the types of vessel that can be regularly seen from the watchstation. A photo album with pictures of the most common vessel types seen in our area will be available to view in the watch tower.



National Coastwatch Fleetwood

EYES ALONG THE COAST



INTENTIONALLY BLANK