

Olympia Area Rowing

Fog Safety Guidelines

Fog is a common occurrence year round in the Puget Sound area. The same weather patterns that cause fog also create flat water, which is desirable to row on. Yet, the fog poses serious hazards in terms of not being able to see objects and obstacles in the water, and leaves the potential for rowers and boats to get lost and making it virtually impossible for crews to be found. This puts the rowers, coaches and rescuers at risk.

Accordingly, the following guidelines apply to those rowing out of the OAR Boathouse:

- There needs to be a minimum of 500 meters of visibility before anyone can go out in either club or privately-owned boats.
- If there is more than 500 meters of visibility, but fog in the area, rowers should:
 - Use lights in accordance with boater safety regulations for nighttime/low visibility.
 - Stay near the shore and never go so far off the shore that you lose sight of shore.
 - Coached programs should use larger boats so as not to lose track of multiple singles/doubles.
 - All boats should maintain line of sight contact with each other and the coach boat.
 - Each boat should have a cell phone.
 - If the fog gets worse, carefully return to the boathouse or make your way to shore and call for help
- Use common sense, if you do not feel safe going out, then do a land workout.

How far is 500 meters and what constitutes good visibility?

Assessing visibility should be done before you go out and continuously when on the water.

If you are standing outside the boathouse, the eastside is between 410 - 450 meters away. This needs to be clearly visible. You have to be able to see the houses/condos clearly and not just their lights.



If you are looking north, 500 meters would be the second dolphin in the water. You need to be able to see the base of it, and not just its lights. The nearest dolphin is 470 meters away and the second one is 515 meters away.

