

HCC Group Organization & Communications



It is the responsibility of every individual to remain in close proximity to the leader/group and to follow the leader's instructions. This is fundamental to risk reduction and response to any casualty situation. In conditions where spoken communication is difficult or impossible, whistle signals are to be used:

- **One long blast** - You are too far away from me.
 - Action – **Close up** (or wait if someone has dropped back)
- **Two long blasts** - I have (or have seen) a problem.
 - Action – **All go to assist**

The following hand signals may also be used (standard set proposed by Gordon Brown)

- One hand on head - Are you OK? If OK, respond with one hand on head
- Paddle held horizontally above head - hold position
- Paddle held vertically - come to me
- Point at individual and then raise hand - that person come to me
- Point to a location - go to that location
- Wave paddle or hand above head - I need help

Where a member of a group cannot for whatever reason carry on paddling (two whistle blasts), the first action of the group will be to close up to the casualty. Any action will be coordinated by the leader. Members of the group not immediately involved in that action will hold position (turn into wind and paddle slowly to counteract any drift).