

# Public Rescue Equipment Decision tree

## Background

The provision of Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) has been a key topic area for the last several years in the United Kingdom (UK). Landowners, local authorities and public space operators can find themselves under pressure to install PRE in many locations adjacent to inland waters such as rivers and canals. When done without a thorough understanding and an appropriate risk assessment, this can lead to unsuitable equipment being installed which can subsequently have a detrimental impact on rescue attempts.

PRE must be appropriate for the features and conditions of the waterbody and should follow a thorough risk assessment.

## PRE decision tree

This document provides a PRE decision tree to assist in the management of water safety as well as to help those considering installing PRE to think through the process and decision.

**It is recommended that the following documents should be used as companions to the decision tree.** These documents contain valuable insight into management solutions and the risk assessment procedure:

- [Managing safety at inland waters - RoSPA](#)
- [Water safety partnerships - Guidance | National Water Safety Forum](#)

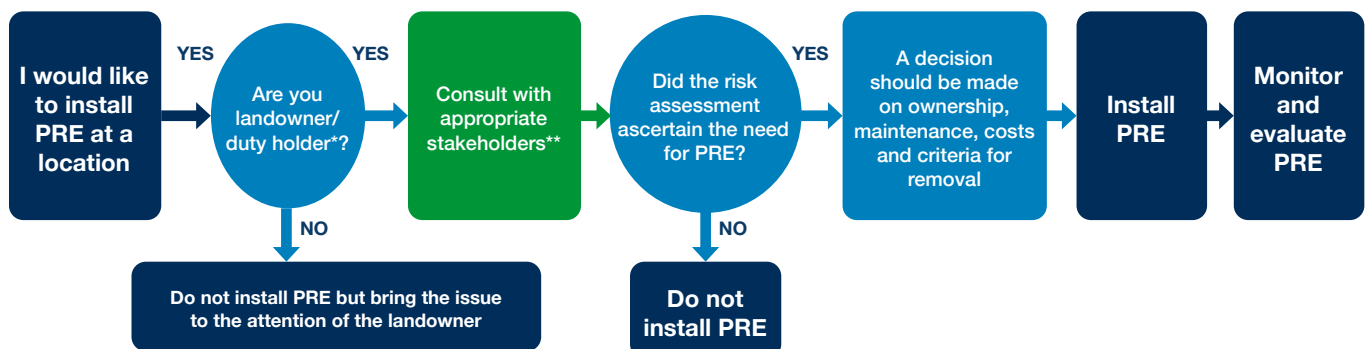
Additionally, the following link may be useful when considering management solutions:  
A safer riverside – [pla.co.uk/safer-riverside](http://pla.co.uk/safer-riverside)

**Do I need to install PRE at a location?** The installation of PRE should only ever take place after a risk assessment. Risk assessments should always be completed by a competent person.

PRE should:

- be easy to use by members of the public with minimal hesitation and without putting the safety of the rescuer at risk
- be fit for purpose, correctly located and appropriate for the type of location for it to provide effective recovery
- be seen as one of many control measures for a location. Other measures can include education, signage and even environmental improvements. On some occasions PRE is not necessary.

## Decision tree



\*The Duty Holder is the group or entity responsible for legal site safety. See Managing safety at inland waters guidance document for further information.  
\*\*The Search and Rescue organisation with the primacy for water rescue coordination must be consulted.