

River Thames – temporary river closure

Mapledurham Lock

**300 metres upstream of Mapledurham Lock to
300 metres downstream of Mapledurham Lock**

Thursday 2 June 2016 – 10.00 to 11.00

Emergency river rescue exercise

The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police, the Hazardous Area Response Team, Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue Service, British Marine and the Environment Agency are carrying out an emergency exercise on Thursday 2 June 2016 between 10.00 and 11.00 at Mapledurham Weir. The exercise simulates a boat fire aboard a passenger boat where fully trained personnel will be rescued from various positions on and around the boat.

Our patrol launches will be based 300 metres above and below the lock. If you are navigating during this time you will be asked to wait for a period of up to 1 hour before you are allowed to proceed towards the lock. This is to ensure the safety of both the fire service personnel and our River Thames users. It is also to ensure that boaters are not adversely affected by the downwash created by the helicopter taking part in the exercise.

It is very important for those involved in the exercise to have the opportunity to rehearse scenarios such as this in order that they are fully prepared should a real incident occur. We hope that our customers are understanding and we apologise for any inconvenience this restriction causes and thank you for your patience

**Andrew Graham
Harbourmaster
19 May 2016**