



Medical Rescue Training

Sustainability & Environmental Impact Policy - Square Knot Ltd

Responsible Person: Jacob Leverett (Director)
Available at: <https://square-knot.co.uk/policies>

1. Purpose

Square Knot Ltd is committed to minimising its environmental impact and operating in a sustainable, responsible, and environmentally conscious manner across all services, including event medical cover, water rescue, training delivery, and remote operations.

This policy aims to:

- Reduce environmental harm from operations
- Ensure safe and compliant management of clinical and operational waste
- Prevent environmental contamination, including biological cross-contamination
- Promote sustainable practices across all activities
- Align with UK environmental legislation and best practice

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All operational deployments (events, water rescue, remote medicine)
- Training environments (classroom and practical)
- Equipment use, transport, and maintenance
- Waste generation and disposal
- Procurement and supply chain decisions

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Square Knot Ltd will comply with all relevant legislation and guidance, including:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations
- CQC Fundamental Standards (Safe, Well-led)

Where operating near or within water environments, additional environmental and biosecurity controls will be applied.

4. Policy Statement

Square Knot Ltd recognises that its activities—particularly those involving:

- Clinical care
- Water rescue operations
- Equipment deployment across multiple environments
- Vehicle use and logistics

have the potential to impact the environment.

We are committed to:

- Preventing pollution and environmental harm
- Minimising waste and promoting recycling
- Managing clinical and hazardous waste safely
- Preventing cross-contamination between environments
- Embedding sustainability into operational planning

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Director (Responsible Person – Jacob Leverett)

- Overall accountability for environmental compliance
- Ensuring appropriate systems, contractors, and procedures are in place
- Reviewing environmental incidents and risks
- Ensuring integration with clinical governance

5.2 Managers / Team Leaders

- Implement environmental controls on-site
- Ensure staff follow waste disposal and biosecurity procedures
- Conduct dynamic risk assessments including environmental considerations
- Escalate environmental incidents

5.3 All Staff

- Follow all environmental and waste procedures
- Minimise environmental impact during operations
- Report spills, contamination, or environmental risks immediately
- Adhere to biosecurity and decontamination protocols

6. Environmental Risk Management

Environmental considerations must form part of:

- Pre-event risk assessments
- Method statements
- Dynamic risk assessments during operations

Risks include:

- Clinical waste contamination
- Fuel or chemical spills
- Cross-contamination between water bodies or sites
- Damage to natural habitats
- Improper waste disposal

7. Waste Management

7.1 Clinical Waste

All clinical waste must be:

- Segregated at source
- Stored securely
- Disposed of via licensed waste contractors

Includes:

- Sharps
- Dressings
- Contaminated PPE

7.2 General Waste

- Minimise waste generation
- Segregate recyclable materials
- Avoid single-use plastics where possible

7.3 Hazardous Substances

- Managed in accordance with COSHH
- Stored, transported, and disposed of safely

8. Biosecurity and Cross-Contamination Control

Square Knot Ltd recognises the significant environmental and ecological risks associated with cross-contamination, particularly in water-based operations.

This policy must be read in conjunction with: <https://square-knot.co.uk/water-rescue-equipment-biosecurity-cross-contamination-policy/>

8.1 Core Principles

- Prevent transfer of biological contaminants between sites
- Ensure all equipment is clean, disinfected, and dried between uses
- Minimise environmental contamination from cleaning processes

Biosecurity aims to reduce the **introduction and spread of harmful organisms**, requiring strict procedural compliance and staff awareness

8.2 Equipment Controls

- All equipment must be:
 - Cleaned
 - Disinfected
 - Fully dried before reuse
- Disinfection must:
 - Occur away from watercourses
 - Prevent runoff into natural water systems
 - Follow manufacturer guidance

This aligns with established biosecurity practice requiring cleaning, disinfection, and drying between sites to prevent contamination spread

8.3 Operational Application

Particularly relevant for:

- Water rescue equipment

- Boats and access systems
- PPE (helmets, drysuits, boots)
- Medical equipment exposed to environmental conditions

8.4 Staff Responsibilities

- Follow biosecurity procedures at all times
- Use designated cleaning areas where available
- Report contamination risks immediately

9. Sustainable Operations

Square Knot Ltd will:

- Reduce vehicle emissions through efficient logistics planning
- Minimise unnecessary travel and idling
- Use energy-efficient equipment where practicable
- Reduce paper usage through digital systems
- Consider environmental impact in procurement decisions

10. Environmental Protection in Event Medical Context

During event deployments, Square Knot Ltd will:

- Ensure waste is contained and removed appropriately
- Prevent contamination of land or water
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Coordinate with event organisers on environmental controls

Special consideration must be given to:

- Open water events
- Remote or rural locations
- High-footfall environments

11. Incident Management

Environmental incidents may include:

- Spills (fuel, chemicals, bodily fluids)
- Waste mismanagement
- Biosecurity breaches
- Environmental damage

All incidents must:

- Be reported immediately
- Be recorded and investigated
- Include corrective and preventative actions

12. Training and Competency

All staff must receive:

- Environmental awareness training
- Waste management training
- Biosecurity training (particularly for water-based roles)

Training must include:

- Pollution prevention
- Safe waste handling
- Biosecurity procedures

13. Monitoring, Audit and Governance

Compliance will be monitored through:

- Waste audits
- Incident reviews
- Operational inspections
- Staff feedback

Findings will be reviewed by:

- Director (Jacob Leverett)
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14. Continuous Improvement

Square Knot Ltd will:

- Regularly review environmental performance
- Update procedures based on best practice
- Incorporate lessons learned from incidents
- Engage with clients and stakeholders on sustainability

15. Document Control

All policy documents will be version controlled and regularly reviewed.