



## Accidents don't happen...

*(Managing and reducing risk and incidents as a high speed operator)*

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# Aim of this presentation

**To provoke thought and to ask you a question (or two)**

*1) Are accidents really accidental?*

*2) How do we reduce their occurrence?*



## Relevant background

UK & Overseas military

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Coastguard units

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Police & Fire

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London 2012



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Leisure users

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RYA – Examiner, Inspector, Trainer

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Criminal, civil & specialist investigations



Author of both RYA Powerboating books



# Definition: *Accident*



## **Definition:** *Accident*

*"1) An unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury*

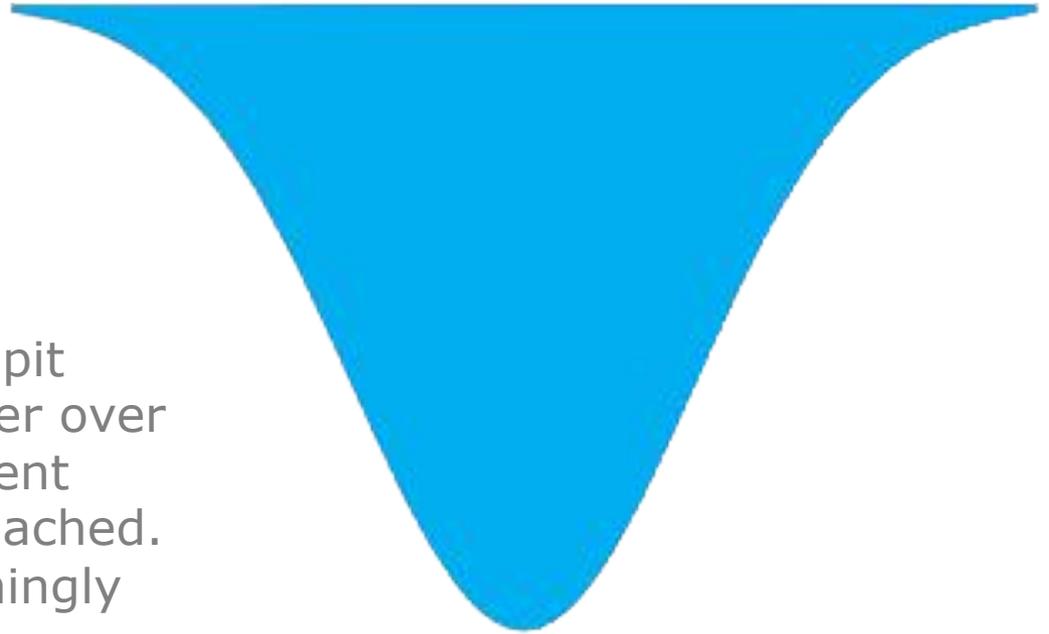
*2) An event that happens by chance that is without apparent or deliberate cause"*



## The incident pit

“An incident pit is conceptual pit with sides that become steeper over time and with each new incident until a point of no return is reached. As time moves forward, seemingly innocuous incidents

push a situation further toward a bad situation and escape from the incident pit becomes more difficult. An incident pit may or may not have a point of no return.” **John Towse, BSAC Diving Incidents Panel**

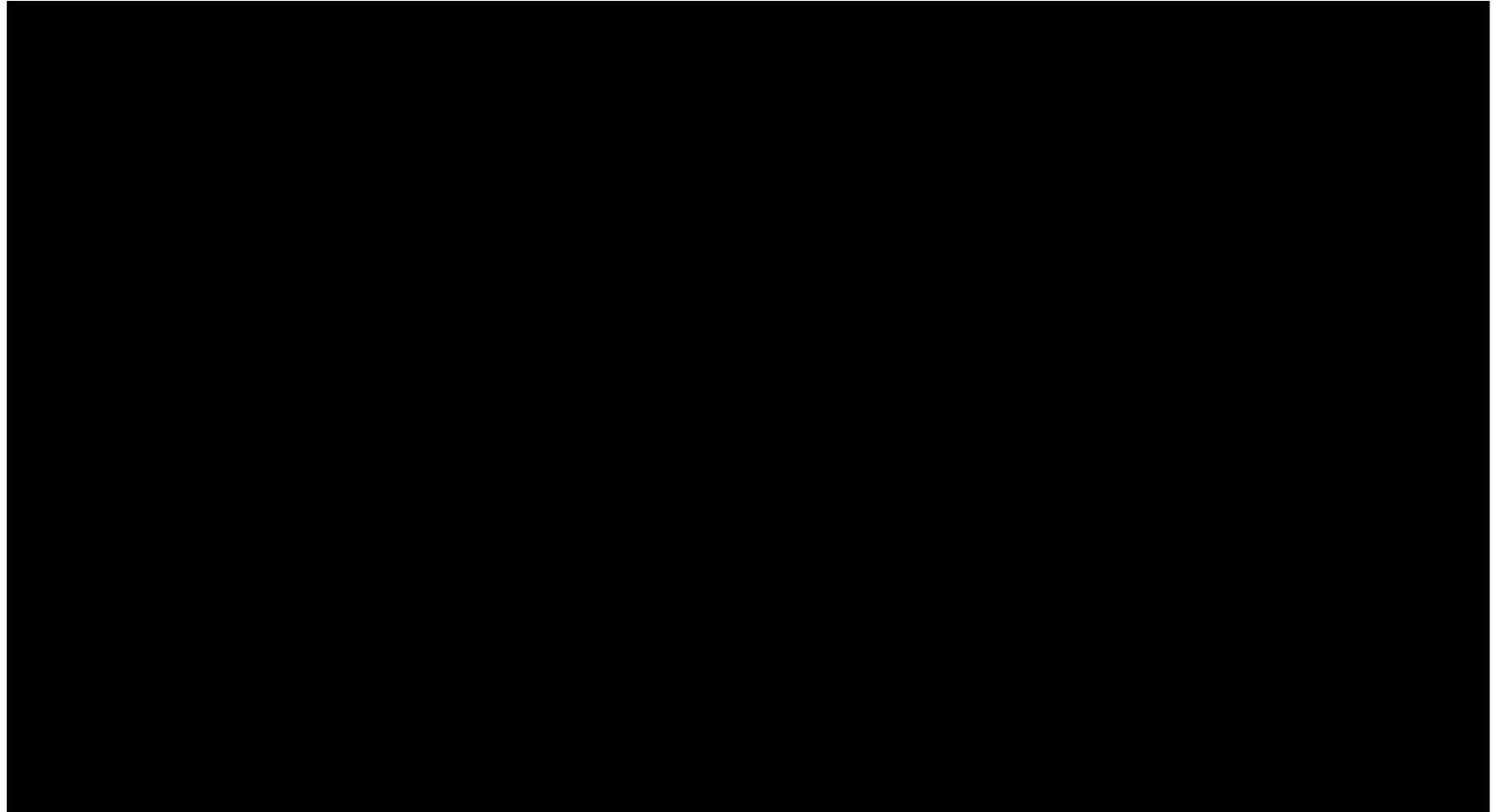




## The incident pit – *an example*

- Start of the season
- New buddy
- New kit
- Boat hasn't been used since issue was fixed last season
- No run out to test boat
- VHF aerial needs sorting
- Weather is worse than predicted
- Buddy keen to go deep
- Something goes wrong.... Boat doesn't start, conditions are bad, comms fail

Example: Diving







## Was it really an accident?





# Was it really an accident?





# Was it really an accident?





## Was it really an accident?





# Was it really an accident?





## Was it really an accident?





# Was it really an accident?

## Definition: Accident

"1) An *unfortunate* incident that happens *unexpectedly* and *unintentionally*, typically resulting in damage or injury

2) An event that happens *by chance* that is *without* apparent or deliberate cause"





# Accident Vs Avoidable incident



# Accident Vs Avoidable incident

- Poor training or not the right training
- Lack of good judgement or the inability to dynamically assess evolving risk
- Equipment failure or a failure to address equipment issues
- Lack of experience or a failure to develop personnel's experience



# So what should we do to reduce the likelihood of incidents occurring?



# The questions for your training teams

- Quality & content of training
- Seamanship
- Are helmsman able to dynamically assess risk
- Are the procedures in place to ensure equipment issues are captured and dealt with
- Is there a mechanism to progressively develop competence – are there goals and targets
- Do you have the resources and budget to say no





## Discussion

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