



Leicestershire Wildfowlers' Safety Code

Live to Wildfowl another day

Study a large scale map BEFORE you go, and memorise the compass bearings and major landmarks.

Always ensure that you have water resistant COMPASS, WATCH and TORCH, and a WHISTLE BEFORE you leave your car. Flares are also a consideration, and could be useful at times.

Fog, like snowstorms, is a deadly enemy. Play safe if either is imminent, and stay on the wall until you know the marsh intimately.

Ensure that you have a TIDE TABLE and know the time and height of the next tide.

Winds of Force 6 and upwards can often bring the tide to its peak much sooner than when quoted in the Tide Table.

In gales, therefore, don't hang on until the last moment. Set off for safe ground in plenty of time ... or you may be too late.

Let someone know where you are going, and what time you expect to be back.

Daylight is the time to do any reconnaissance of the marsh; you cause least disturbance to birds and other fowlers – and it is safer.

Fire a second barrel quickly at pricked birds, if you have no dog. Strong runners can quickly lead you astray whilst you chase them.

On settling in your hide, take compass bearings close to where you left your car, thus ensuring the right way back.

Waste no time if you do get into trouble. The tide won't wait. Sink your pride and bring survival drill into operation at once.

Lie on your back and 'swim' out if you are stuck in the mud. Never mind about getting your gun or clothes dirty – they won't be any use to you dead. Cut yourself out of your waders if necessary.

International Distress Call on your whistle is SIX blasts and a MINUTE's pause. Or fire your cartridges at regularly spaced intervals.

Never panic. Flash S.O.S. on your torch in different directions as you move along. (THREE SHORTS – THREE LONGS – THREE SHORTS).

Geese and ducks are not worth risking a life.

Compiled by R.P. Mason