

Right forecast, wrong date

2001

Issue

This particular incident involved an instructor reading a weather forecast off a harbour office notice board one morning and using it to plan a kayaking trip. Unfortunately, the instructor failed to notice that the forecast had not been changed from the day before. It resulted in a multiple capsizes which, although well handled, finally involved a multiple craft response from local craft. Fortunately there were no casualties. It occurred to us that a similar situation could develop from the misreading of all sorts of weather forecasts from Scottish weather and avalanche details posted in hotels and prominent car parks, to weather details on National Park notice boards.

Outcome

In many ways having the wrong forecast can be worse than having no forecast. Although simple, the solution calls for a discipline of detail: don't just read the details, check the date! A good tip is to get into the habit of checking the date (and source) before reading the weather details.