

# Navigating Locks

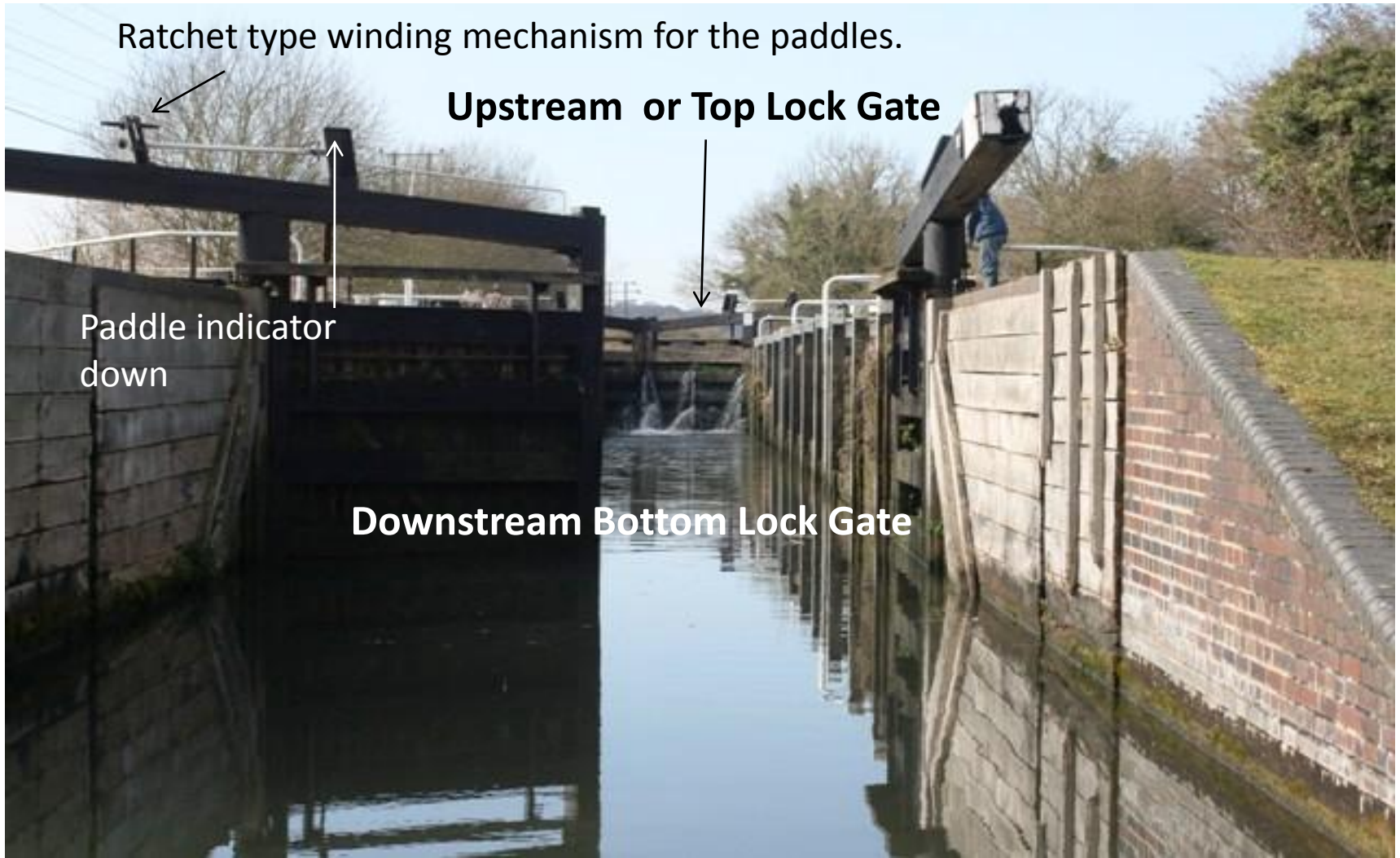
Left click your mouse when indicated or  
Page Down to scroll through at your own pace.

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# 1. Introduction to a Lock

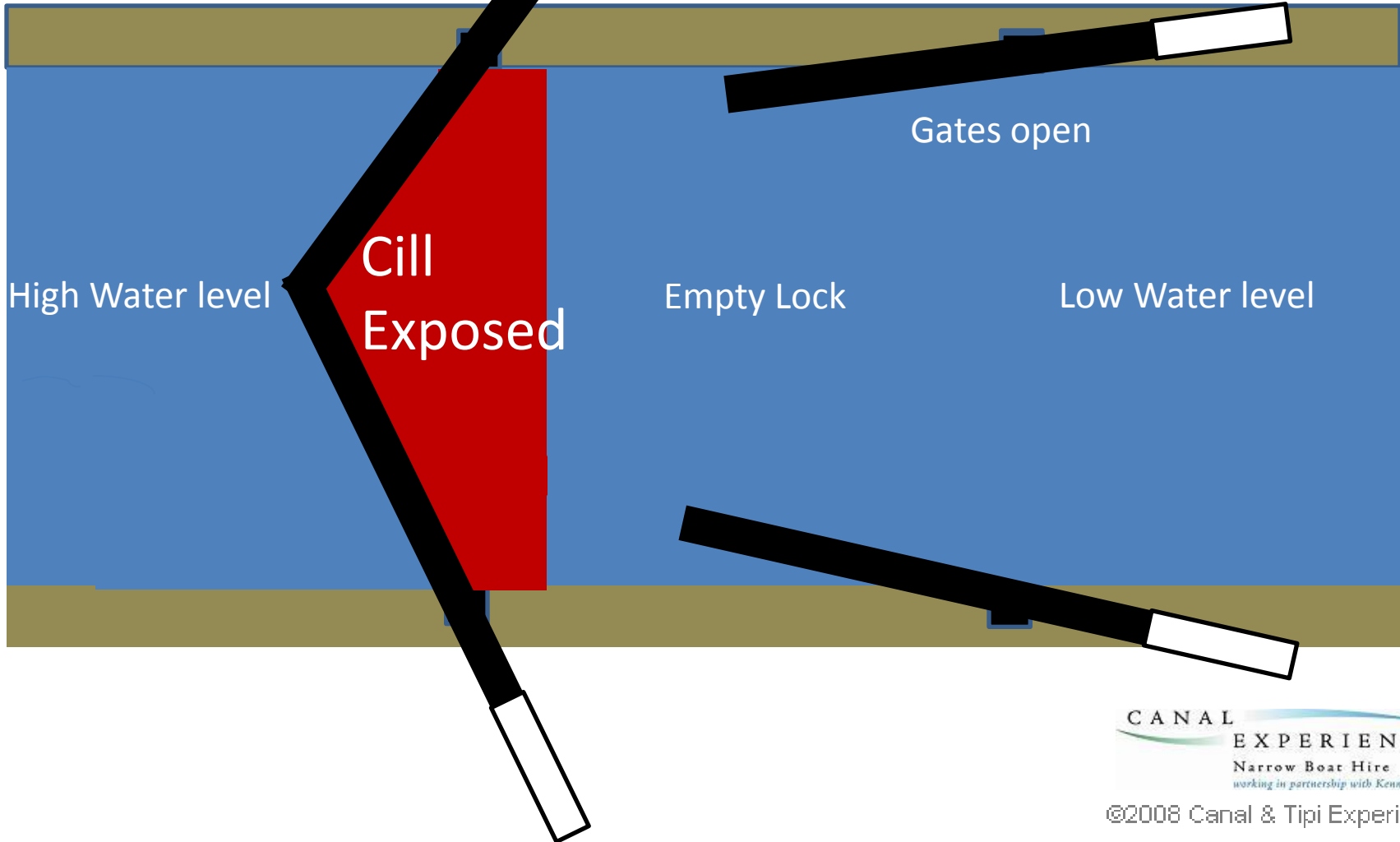
# What a lock may look like....



# Birds Eye View of a lock

Top Lock Gate

Bottom Lock Gate



# Side View of a Typical Canal Lock

This lock is empty and set as you *should* find it.

Upstream or Top Lock Gate

Downstream Bottom or Lock Gate

Paddle indicator  
down

Paddle indicator down

Upper water level

Gate paddle (shut)

Gate paddle (shut)

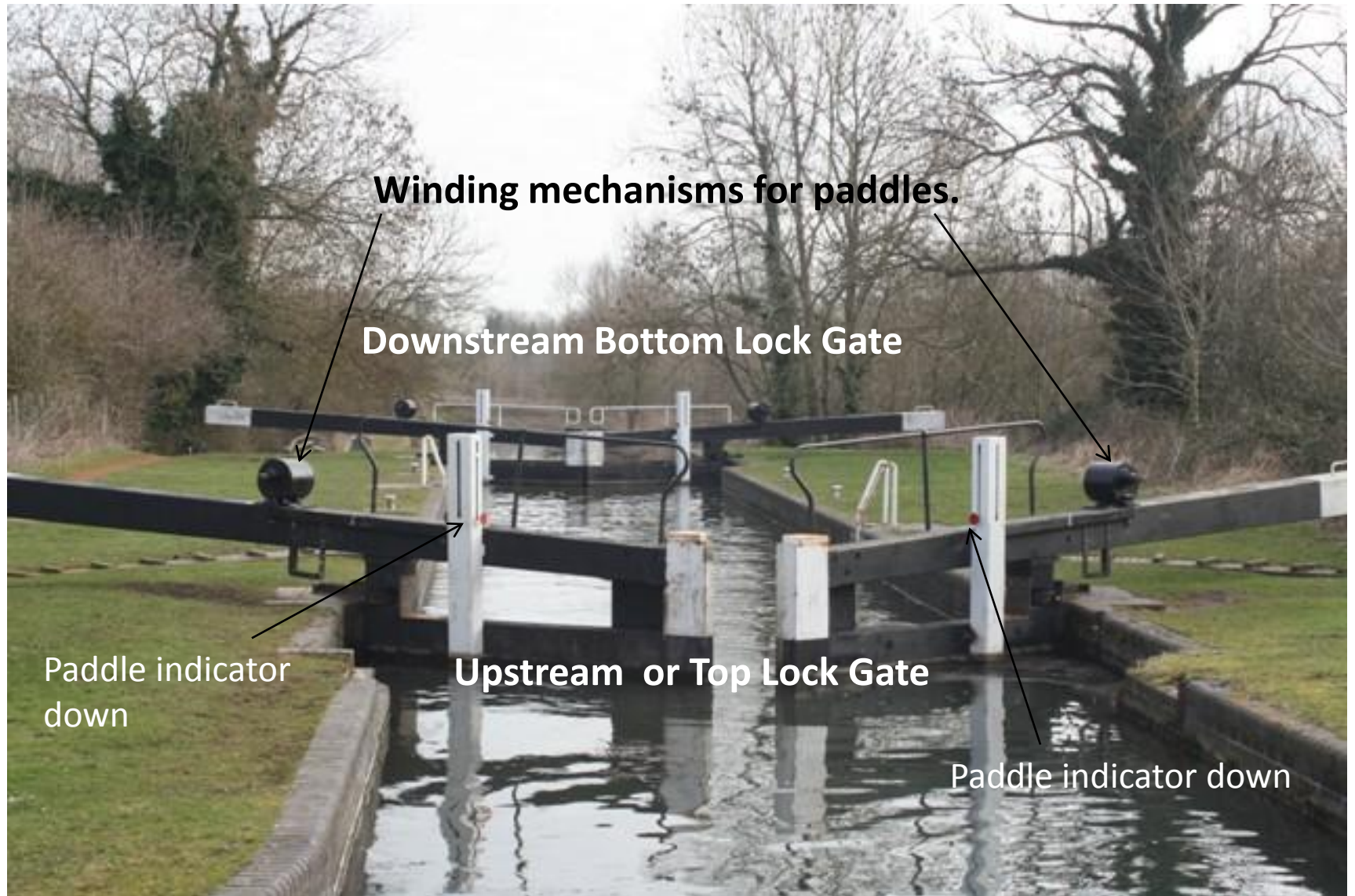
DANGER

Cill

Low water level

Canal bed

# What a full lock may look like....



# Three types of winding mechanism on the Kennet and Avon Canal

All operate with the same windlass or lock key

1. Ratchet Mechanism for a Ground Paddle



2. Ratchet Mechanism

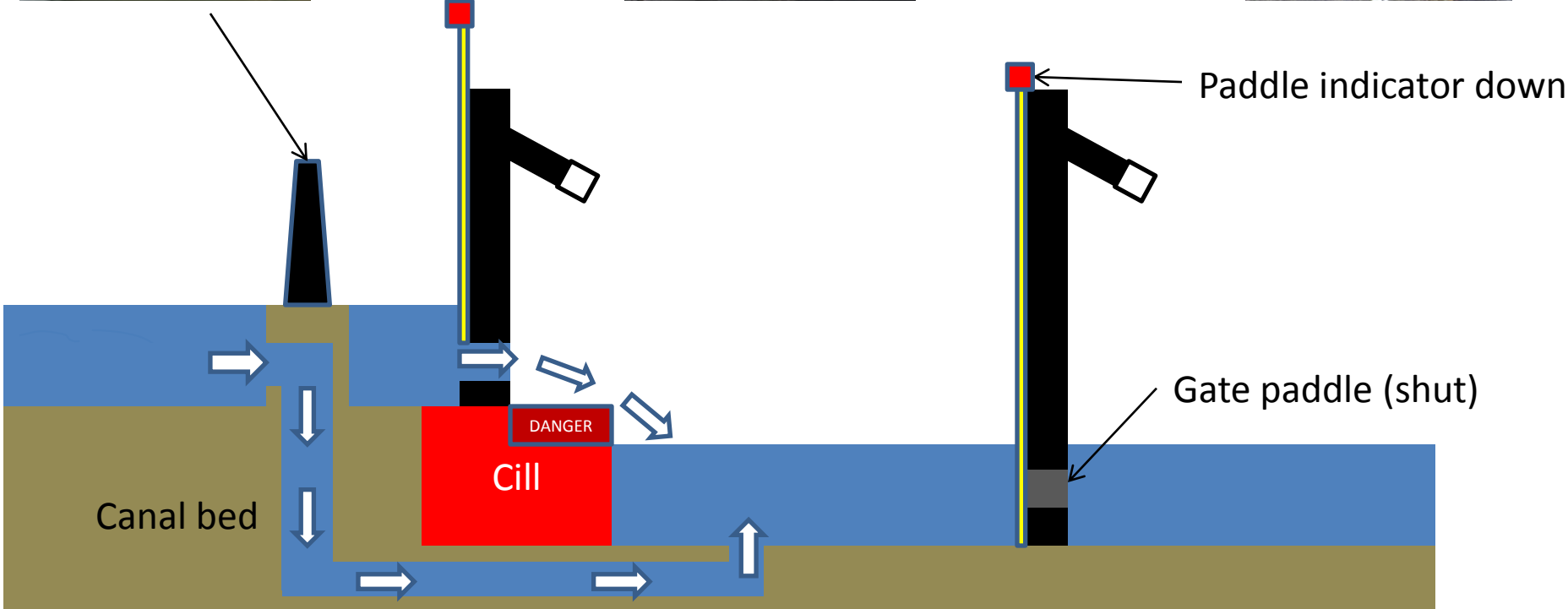


3. Geared Mechanism



Both 2 and 3 lift and drop paddles directly on the gate.

TURBULENCE MORE LIKELY



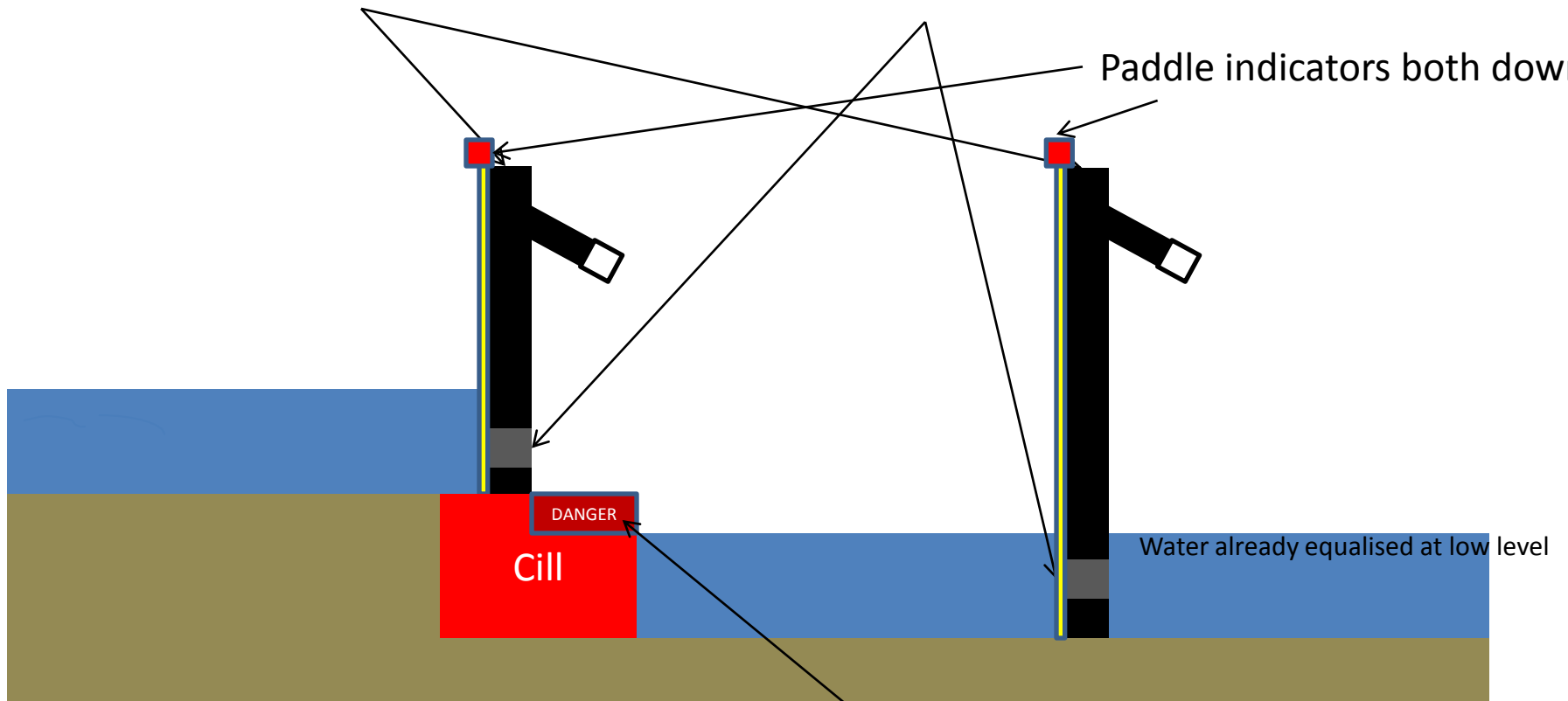
# 1. Going up in a Lock

# Going up in a lock.

Both lock gates are closed

Both gate paddles are shut

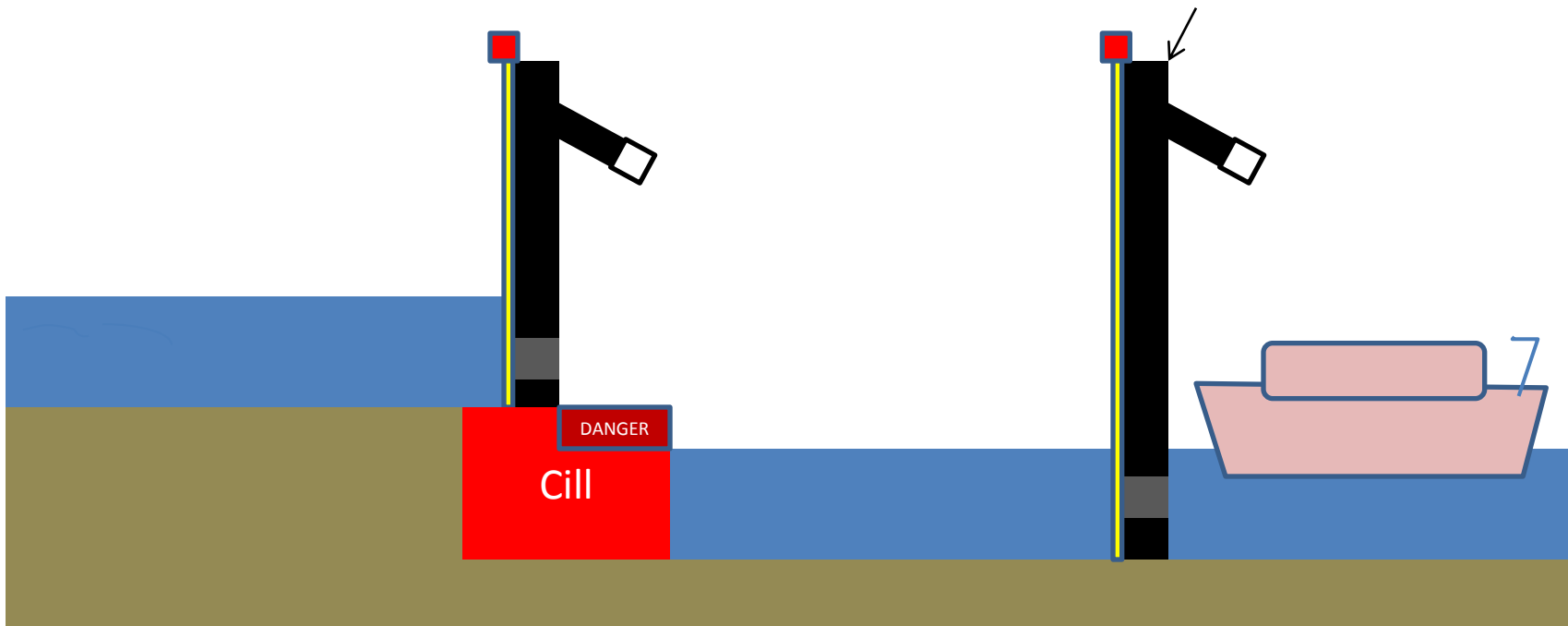
Paddle indicators both down

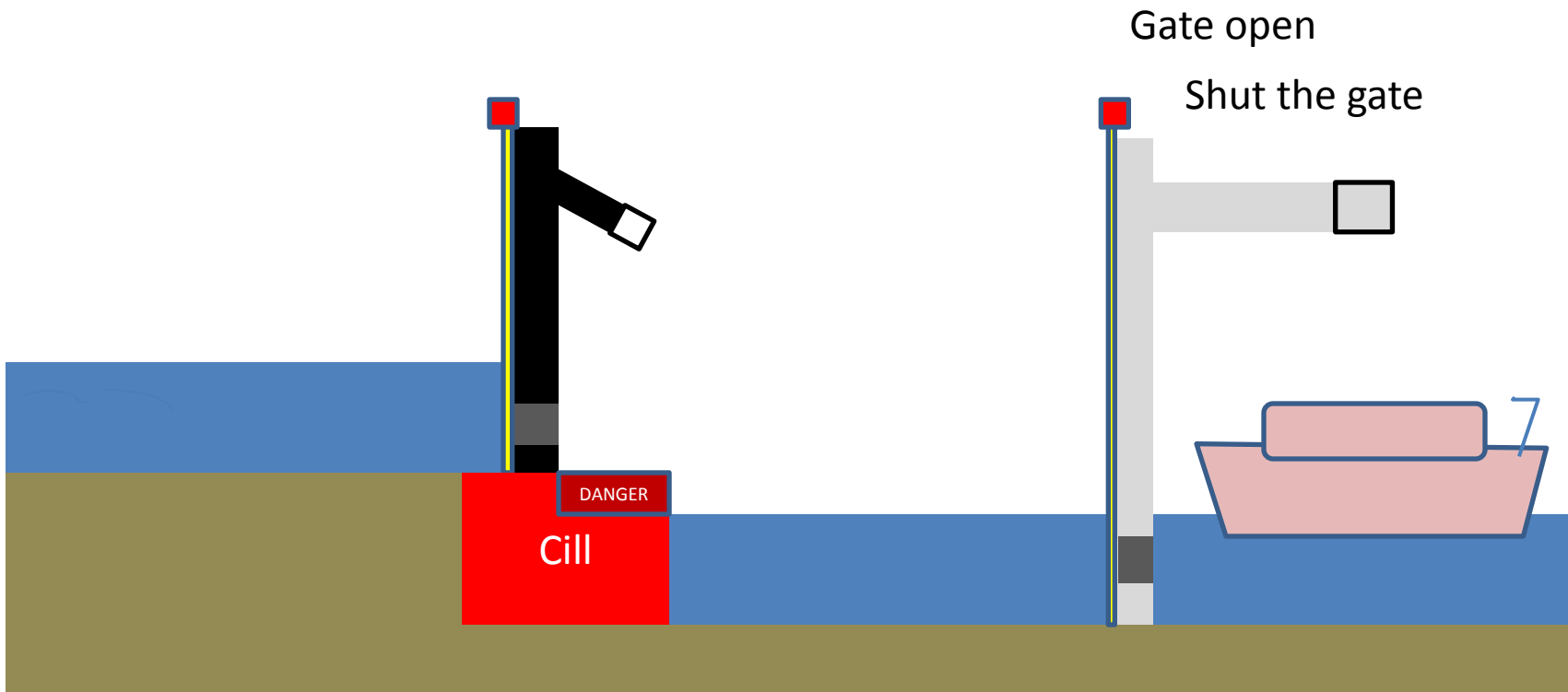


Note the exposed cill under the top lock gates

Stop and moor up safely.

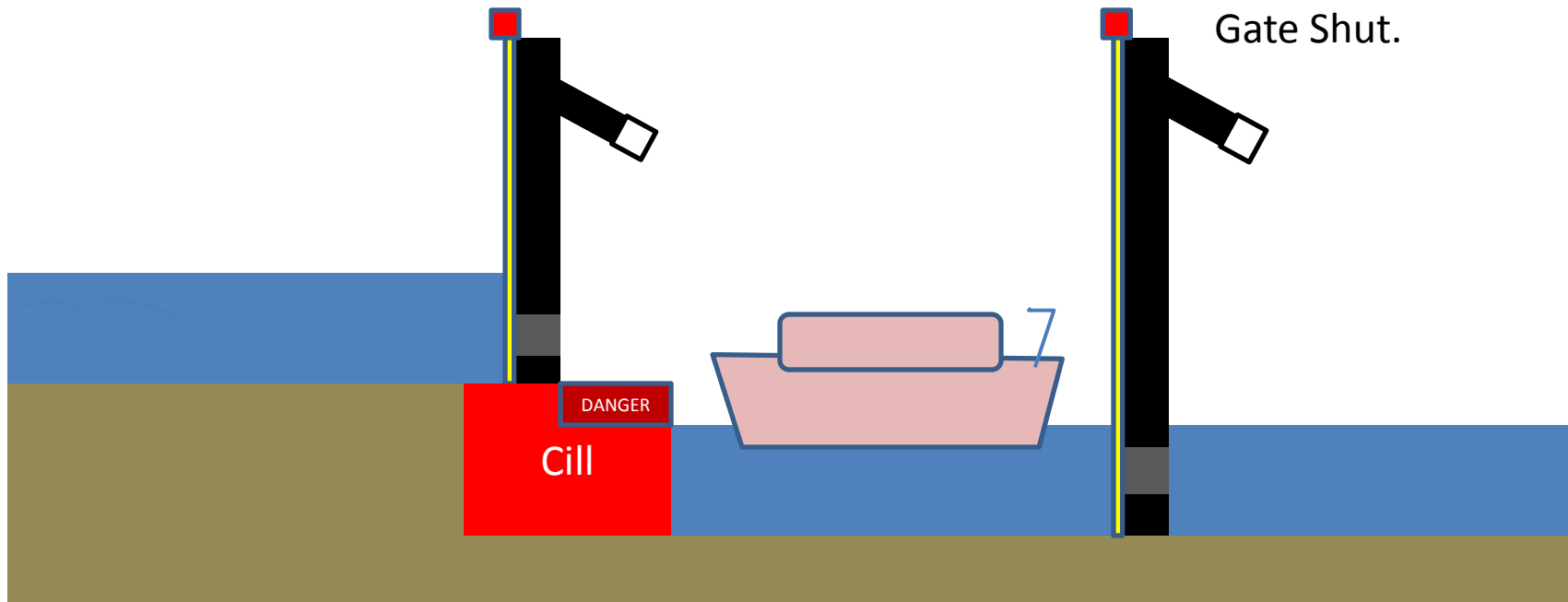
Open the gate.





Hold boat in place using bow and stern ropes

NB. NEVER tie a boat up in a lock. Always hold the boat with a single turn round the bollard and watch for snagging ropes. Slowly draw in the slack as the boat rises.



...what it may look like...

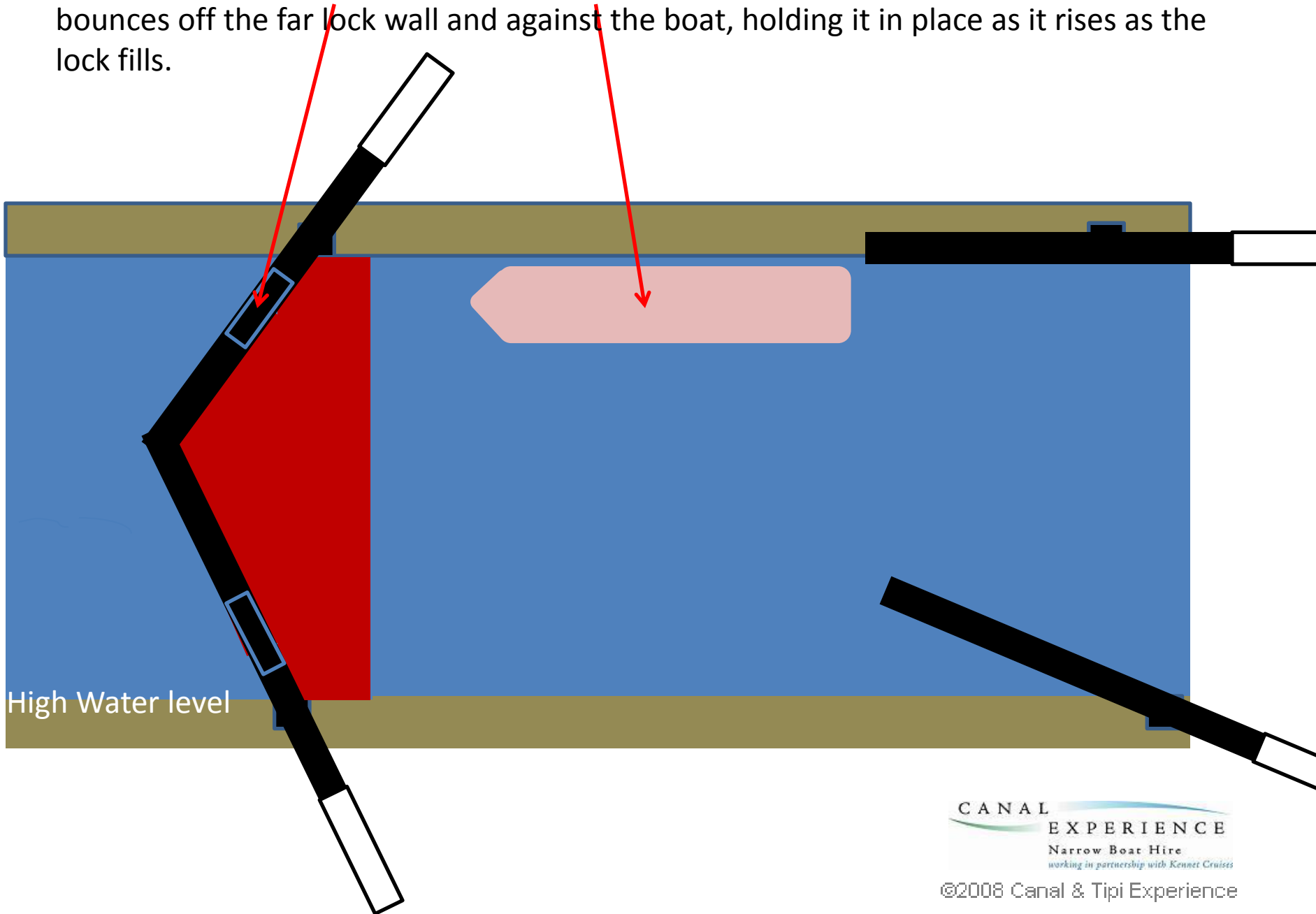


Cill  
marker

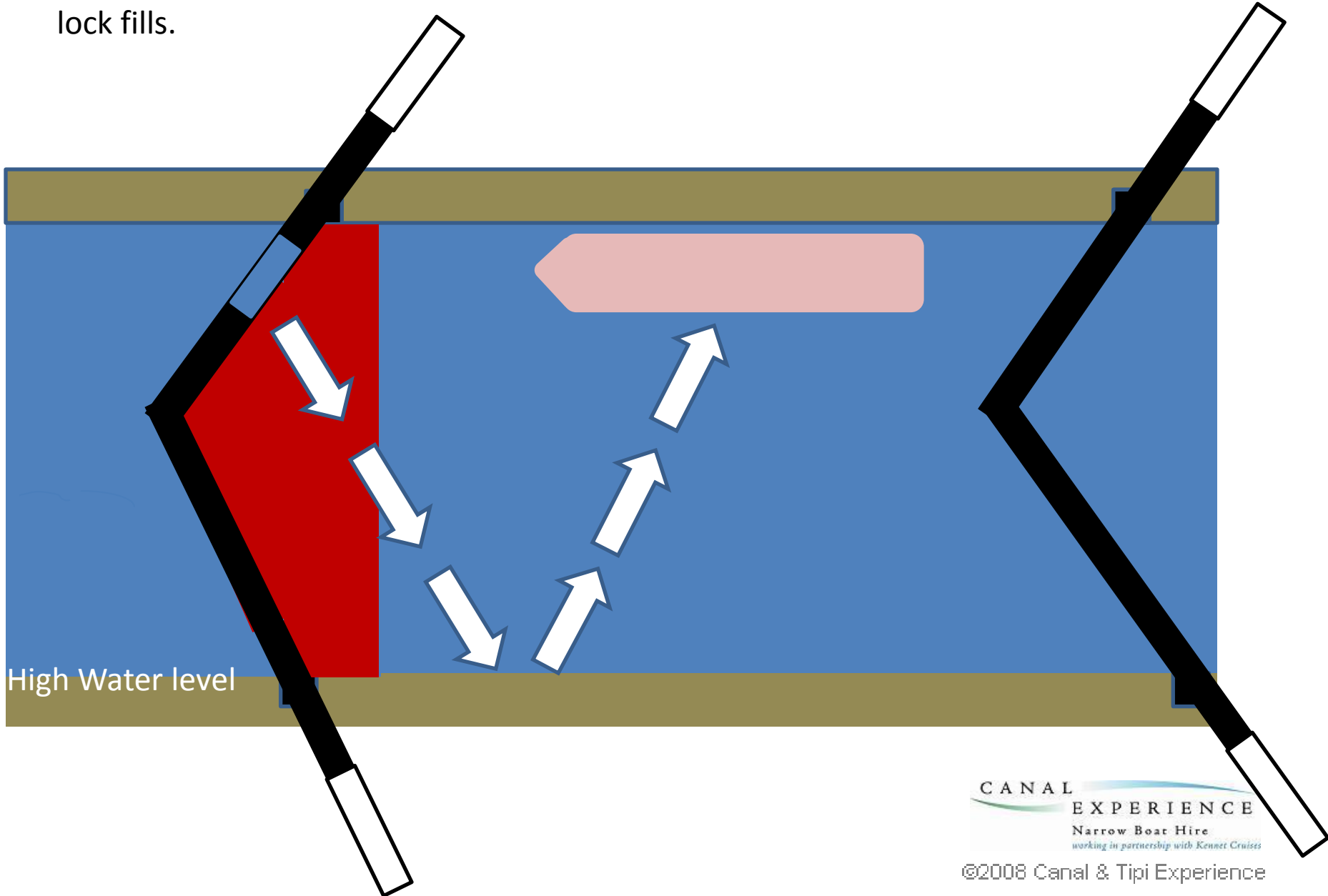
Cill

Paddles

Always open the first paddle on the same side as the boat is moored. The flow bounces off the far lock wall and against the boat, holding it in place as it rises as the lock fills.



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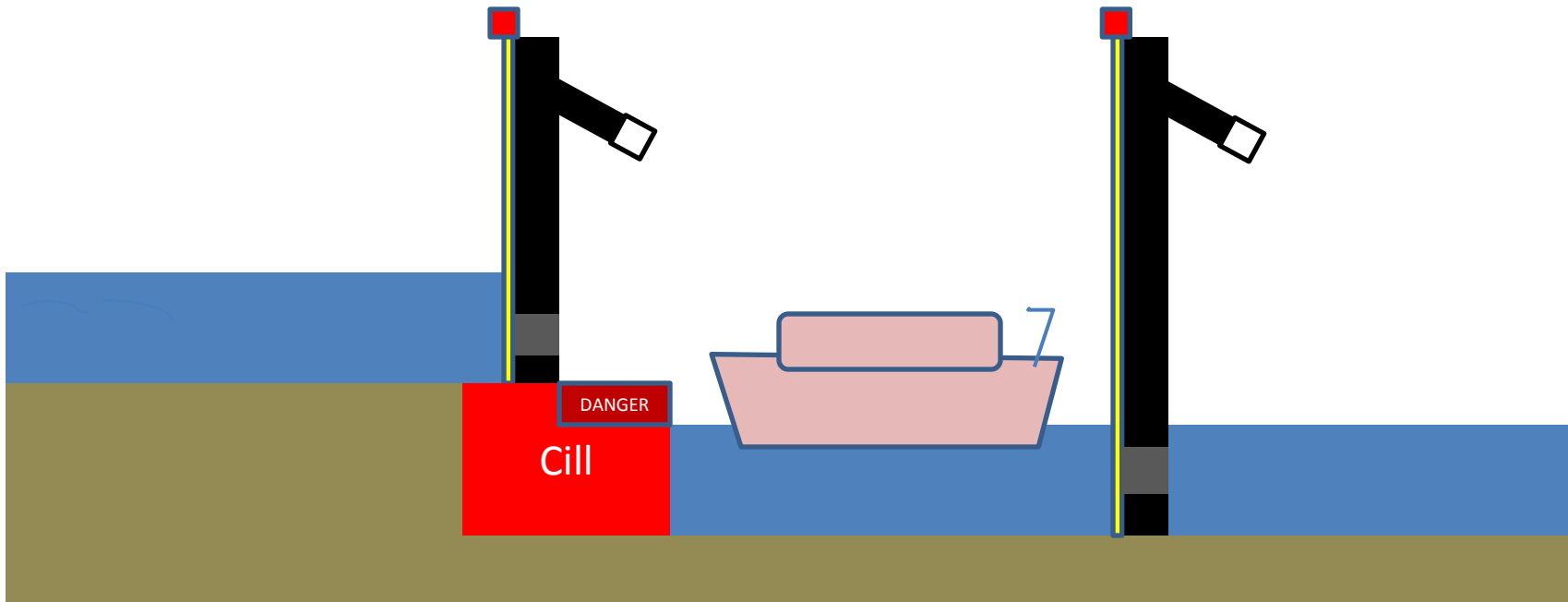
## Considerate Boating.

When emptying a lock, or after you have entered a lock, before you close the gates, just check to see if there is another boat coming into view behind you.  
If so, wait for them to join you in the lock.

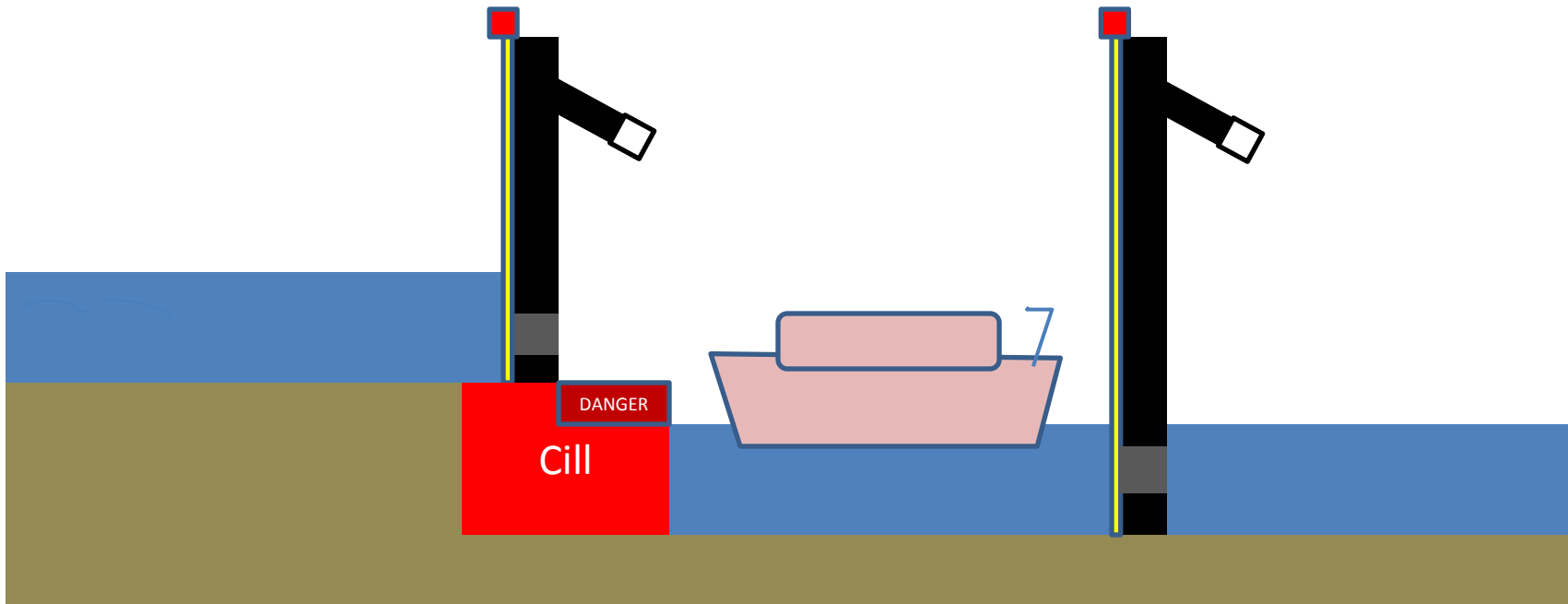
It's polite, it saves water, and it's more sociable!

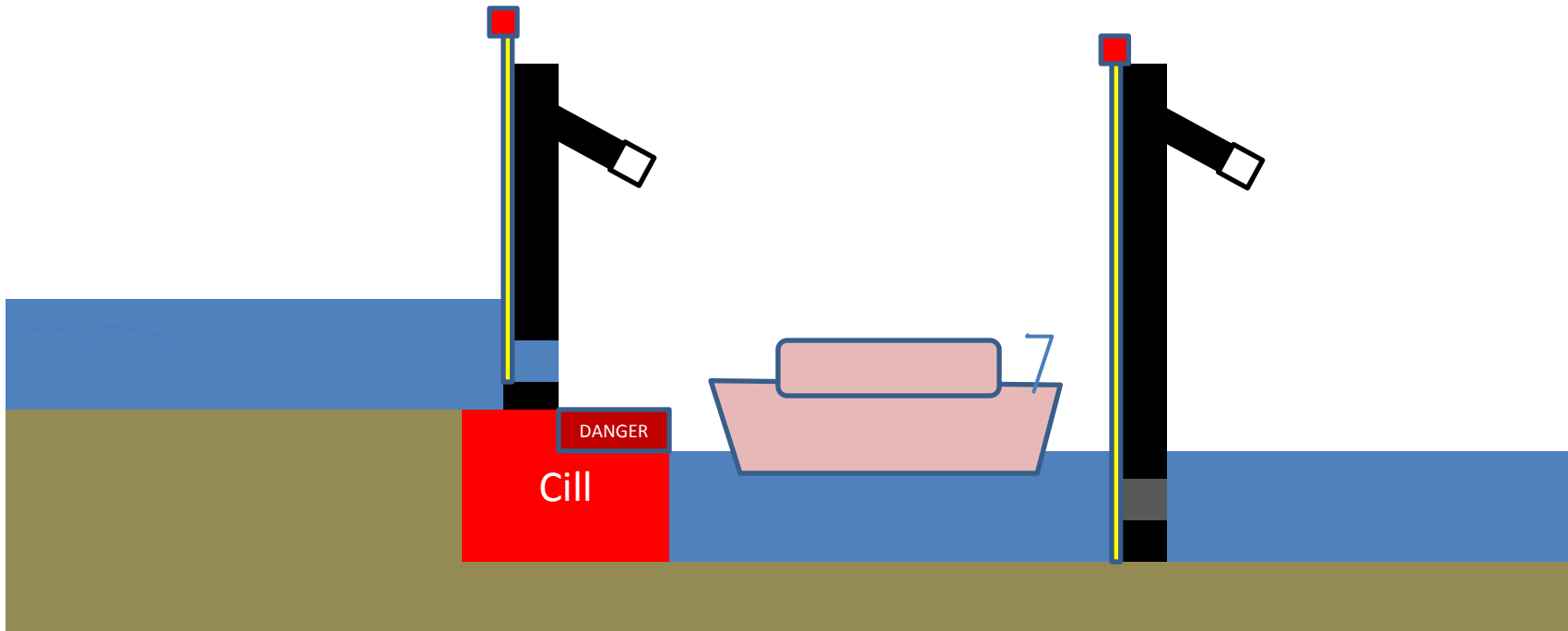


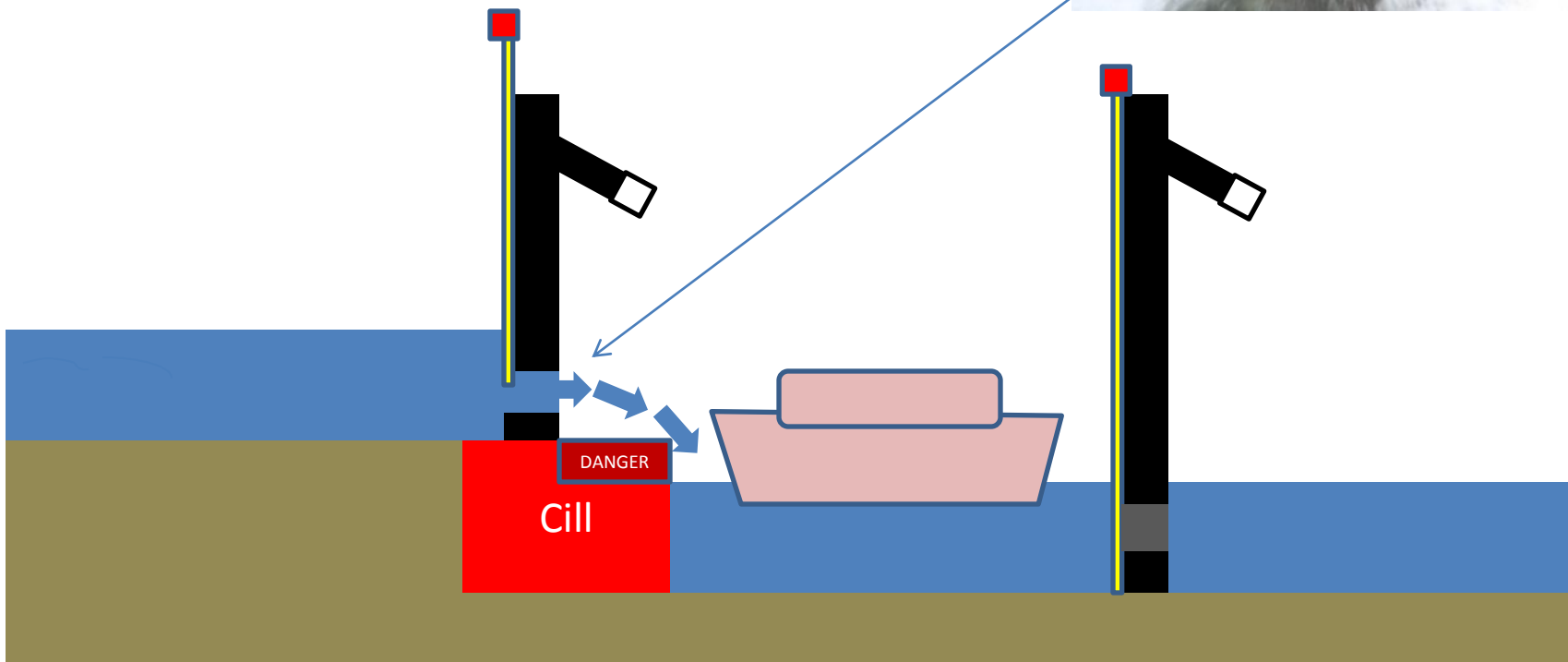
Using your lock key on the winding mechanism, open the paddle on top gate to start filling lock. Always open a ground paddle first.



NB. Never fully open paddles immediately. Open them in stages to avoid turbulence. Do not get the boat too close to the incoming water jets.

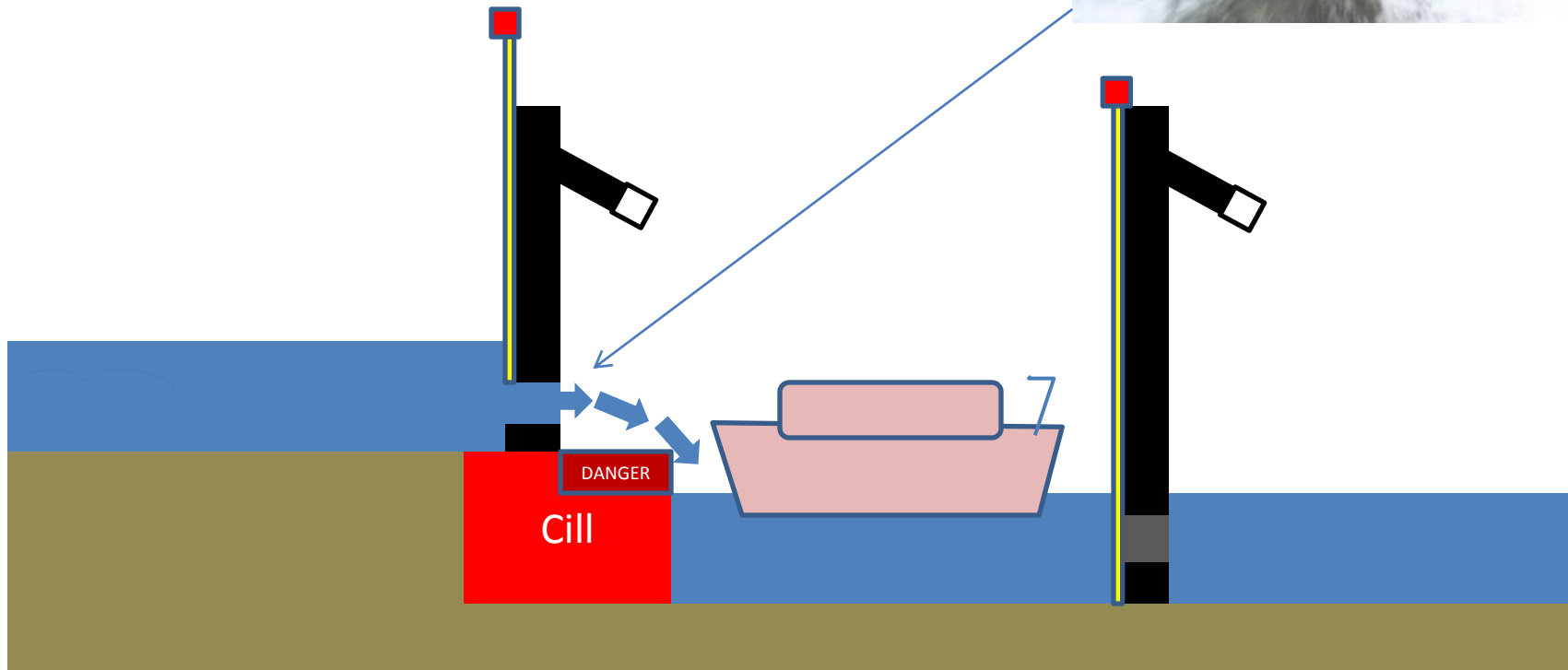






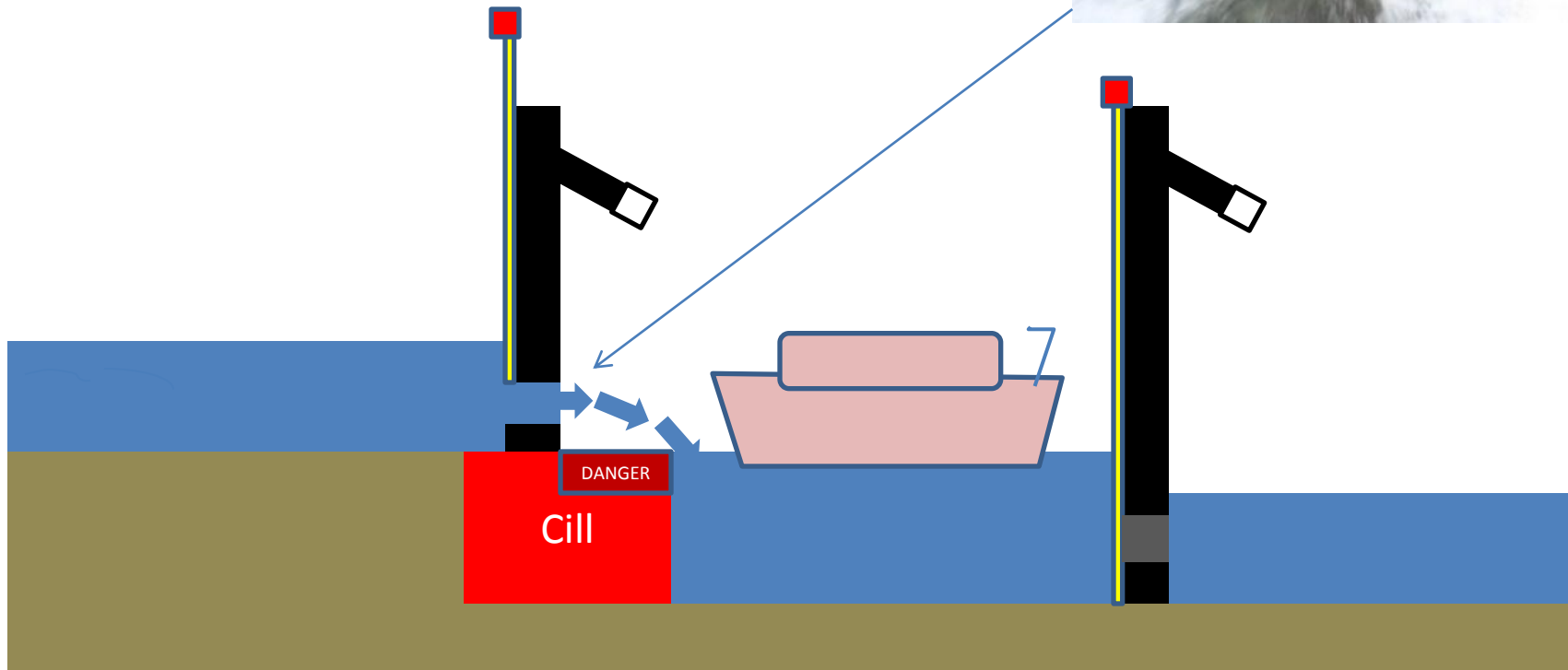
Watch the boat at all times when ascending or descending a lock.

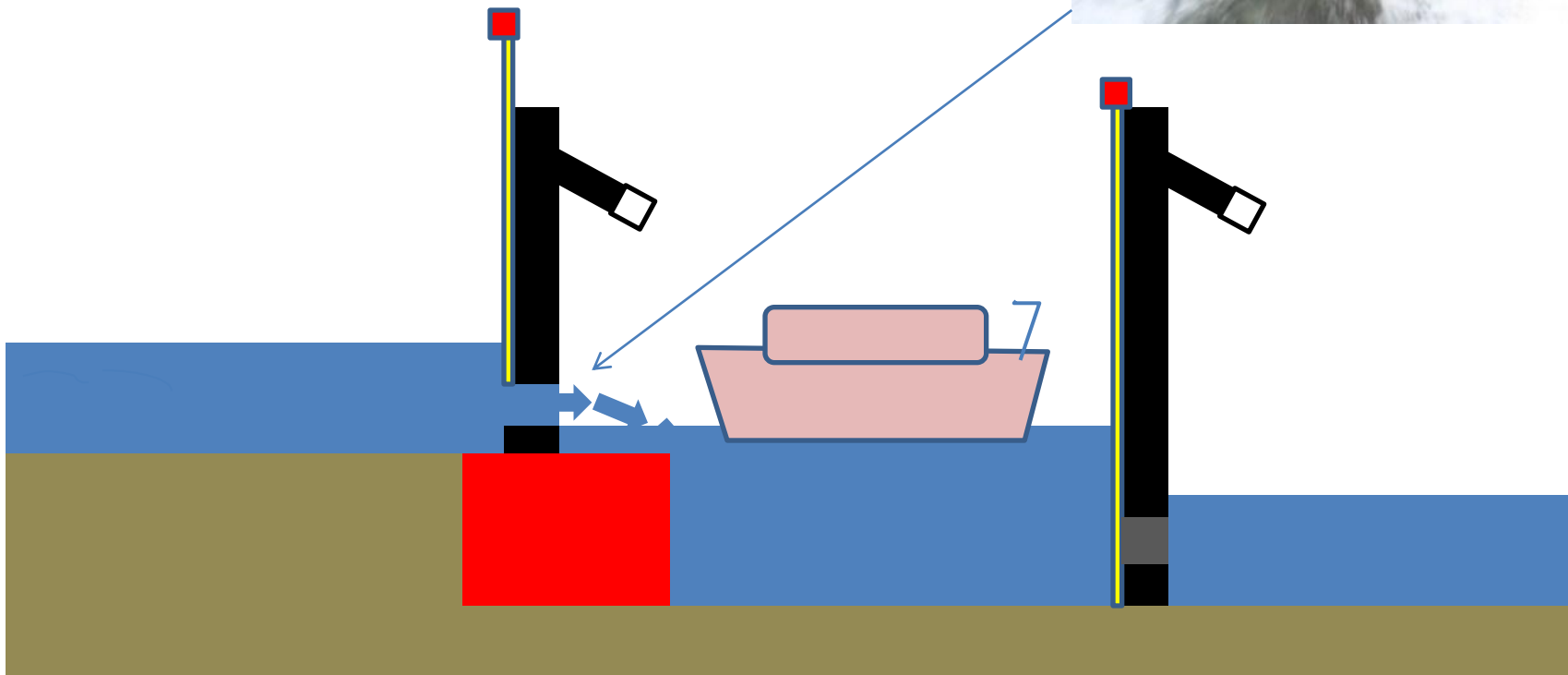
Quickly drop all paddles in the event of a problem.



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Quickly drop all paddles in the event of a problem.

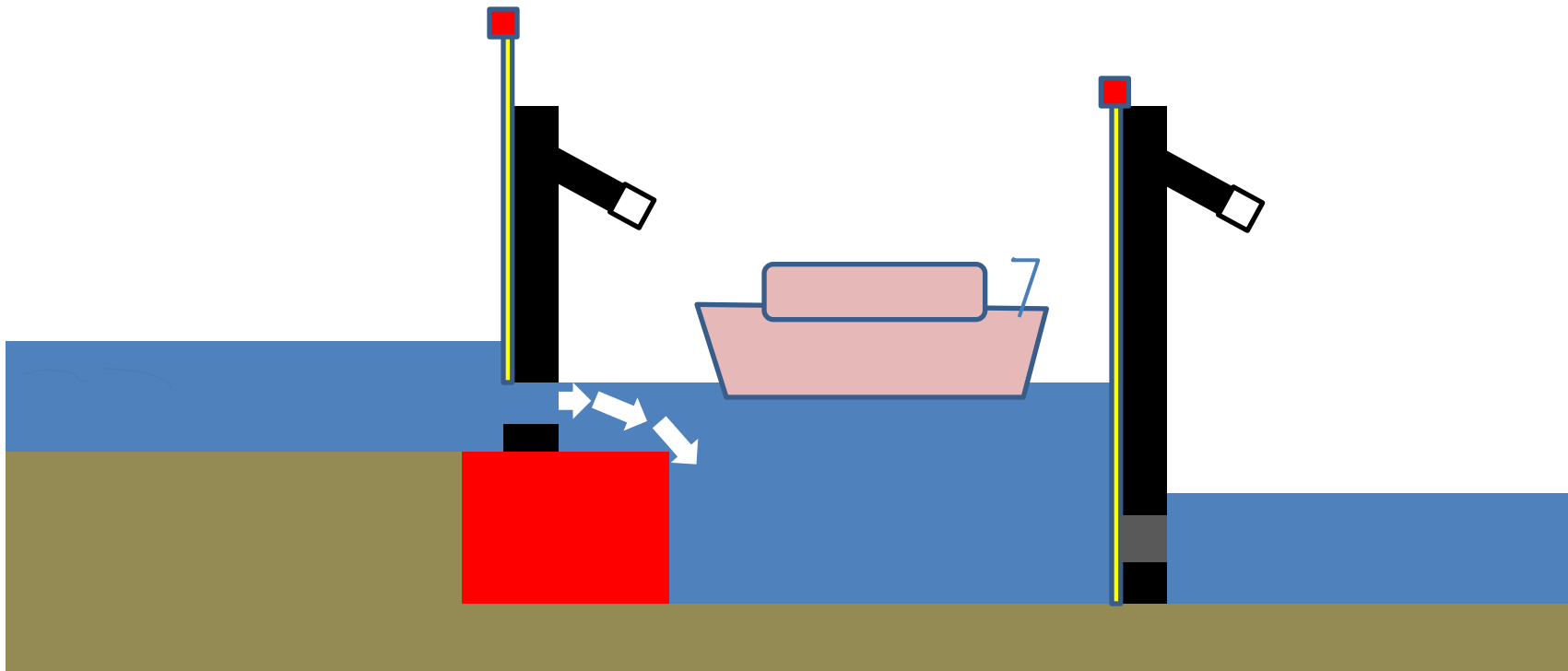




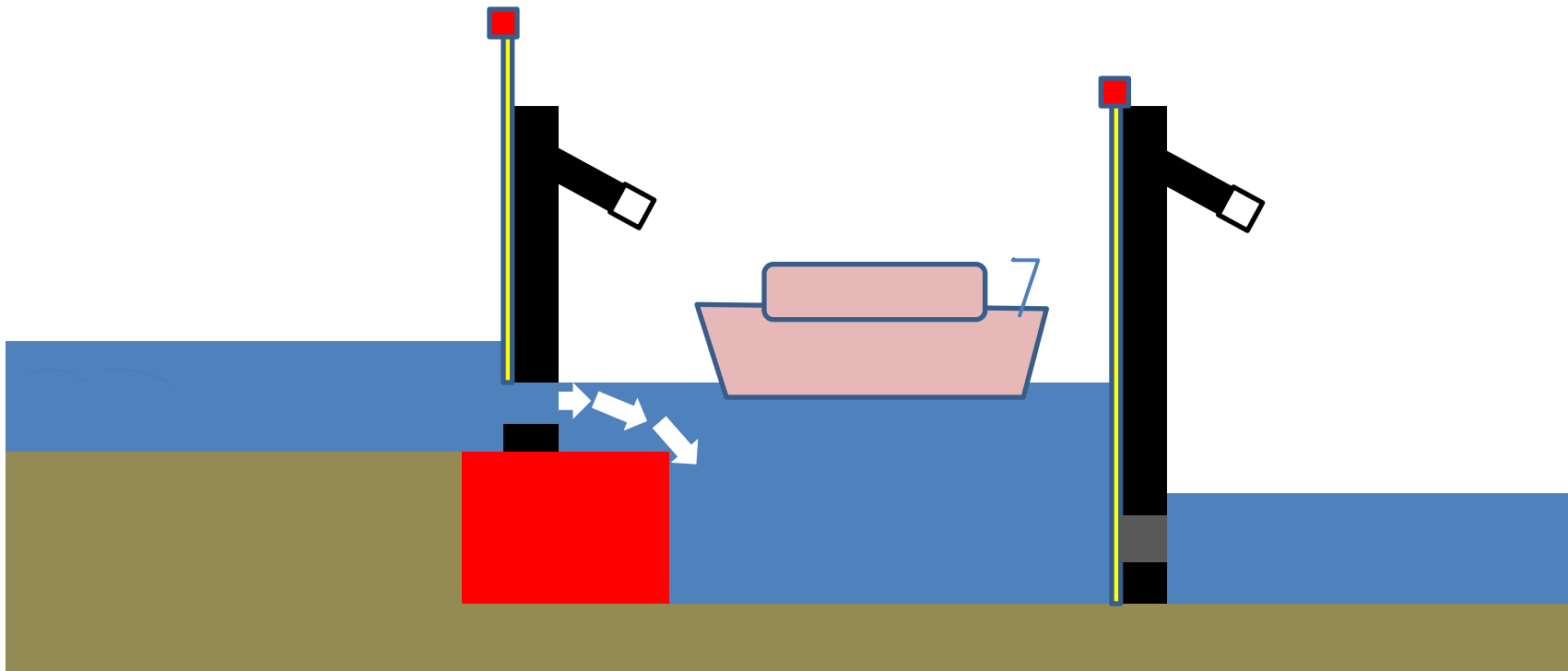
CANAL  
EXPERIENCE  
Narrow Boat Hire  
*working in partnership with Kennet Cruises*

©2008 Canal & Tipti Experience

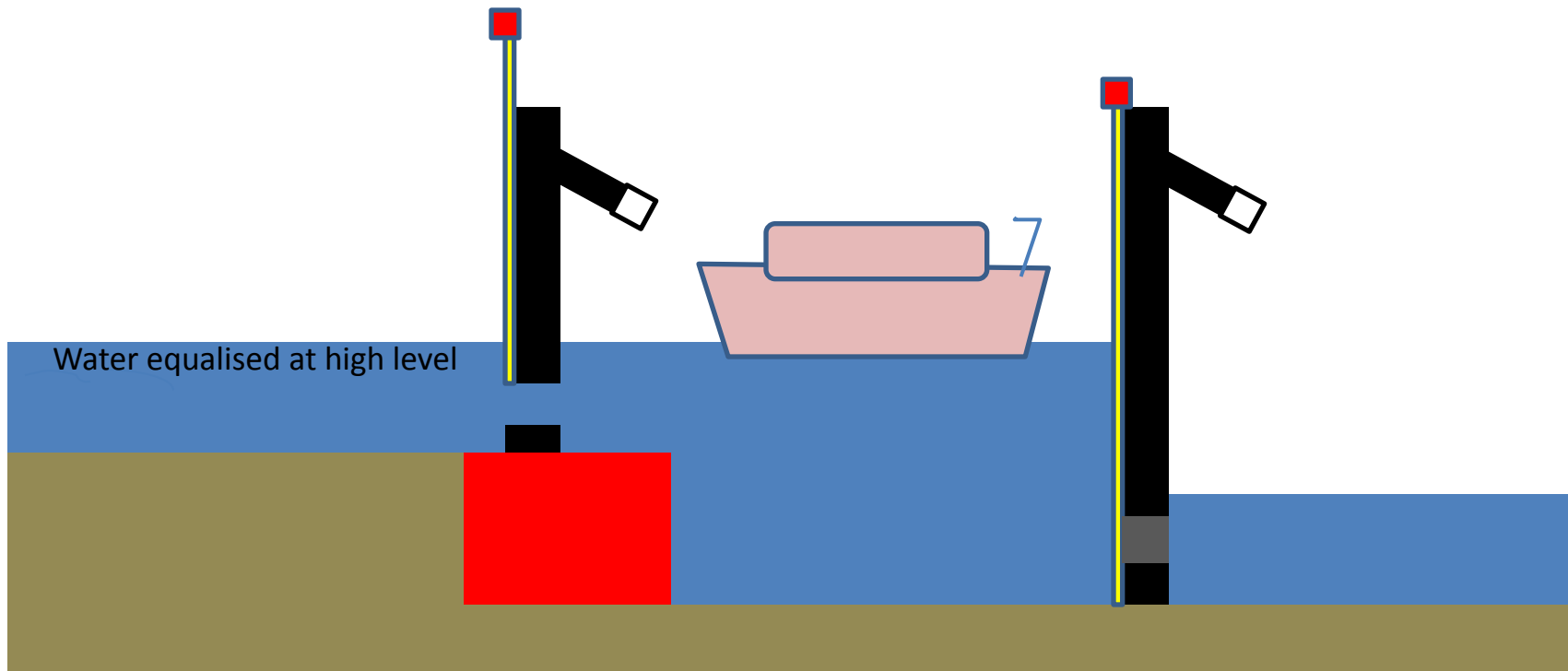
After the level of the water covers the water jet on the first gate, you can open the paddle on second gate to fill lock more quickly.



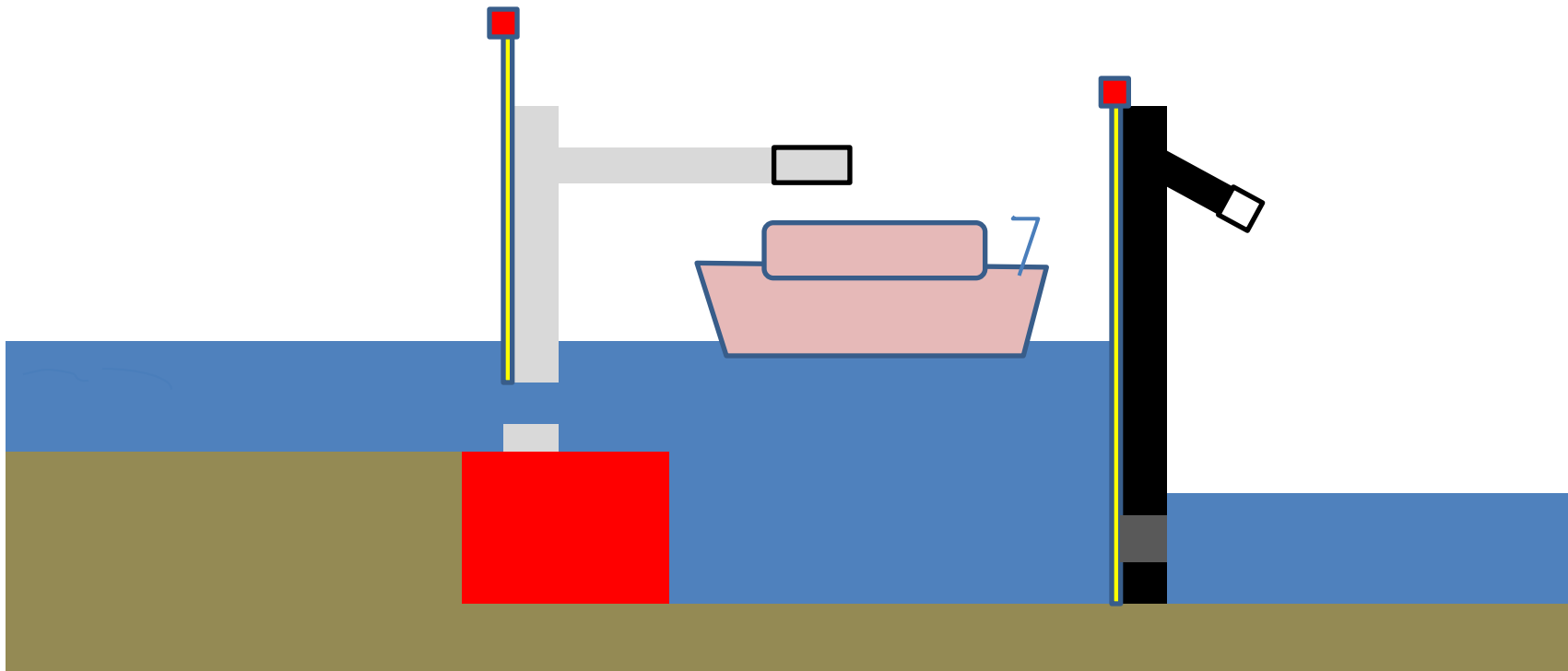
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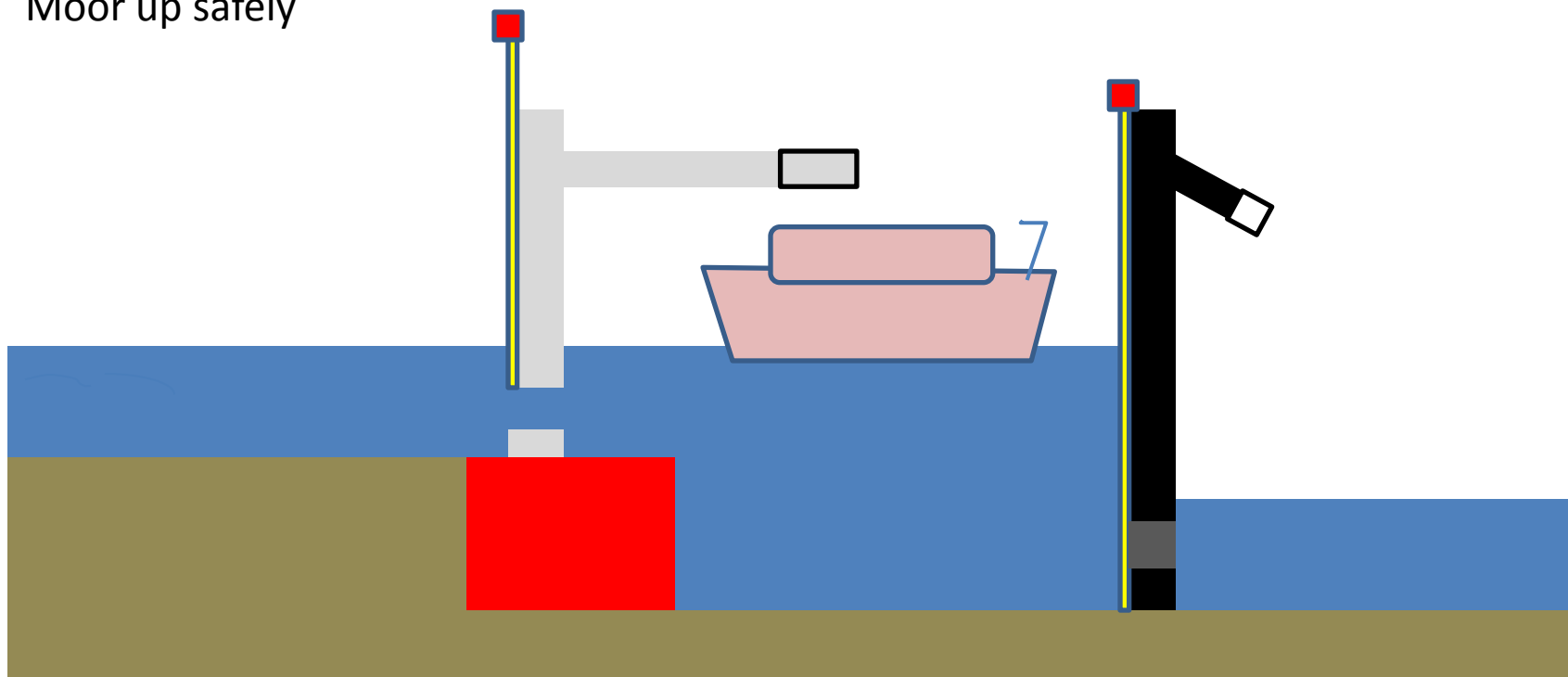
Open top gate



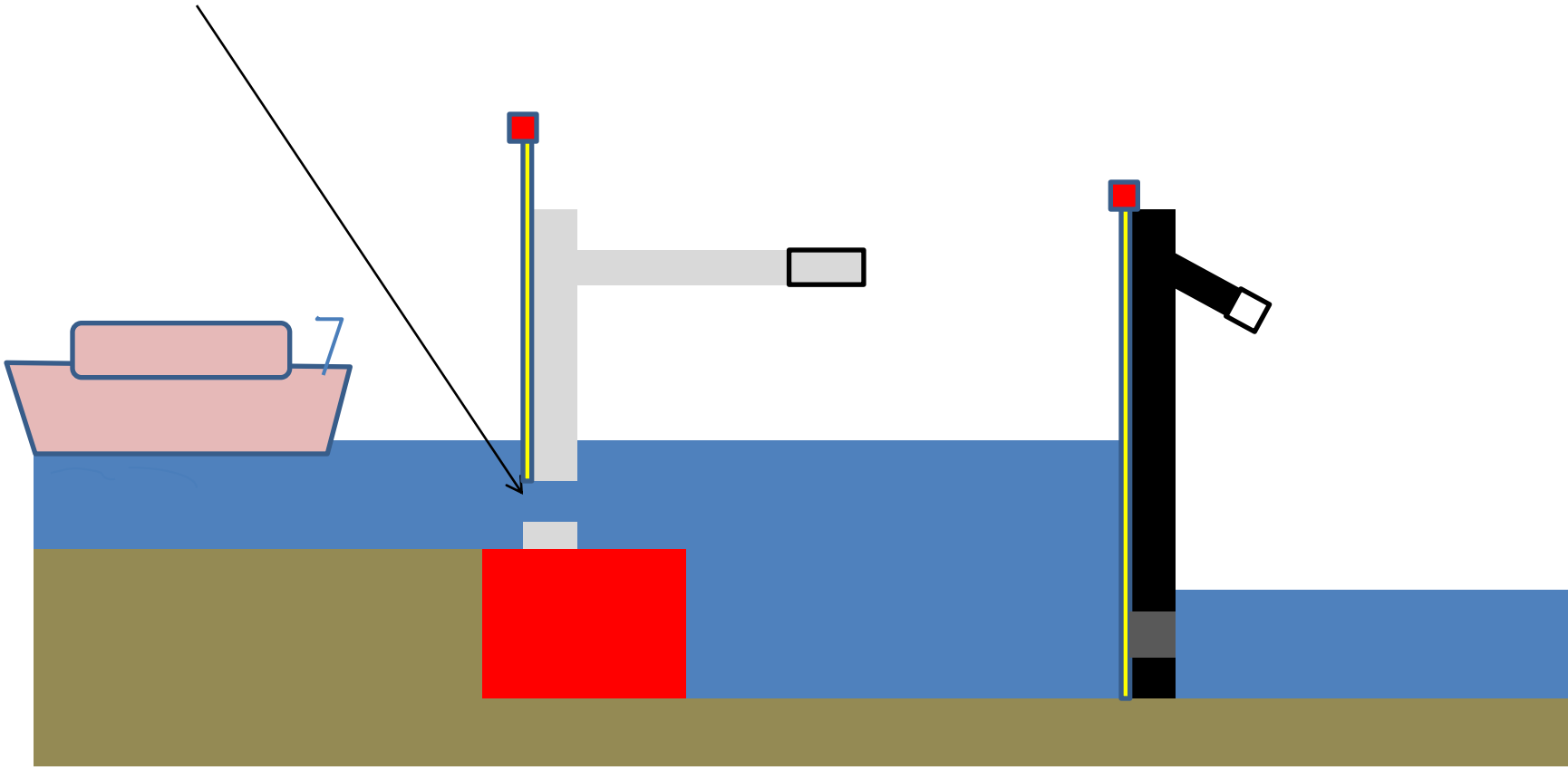
Gate open



Moor up safely

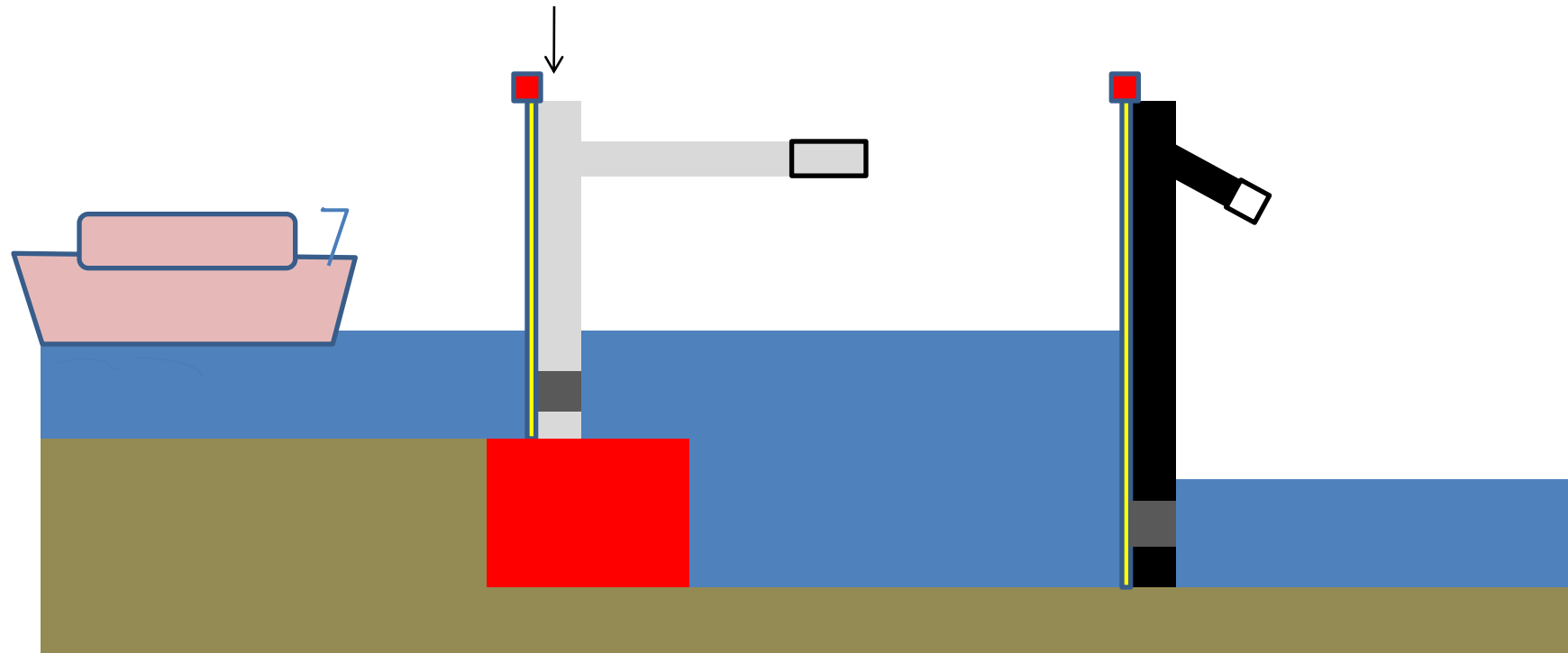


Return and shut the paddle...

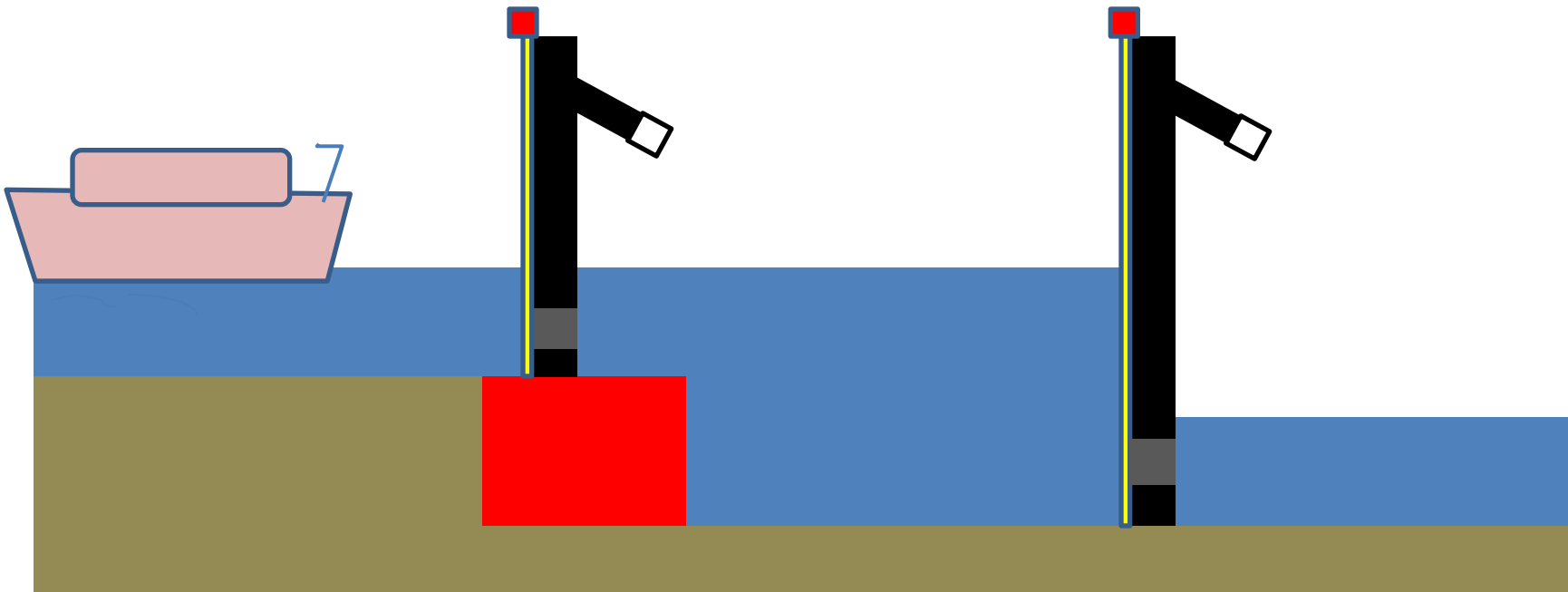


Return and shut the paddle...

And then the gate....



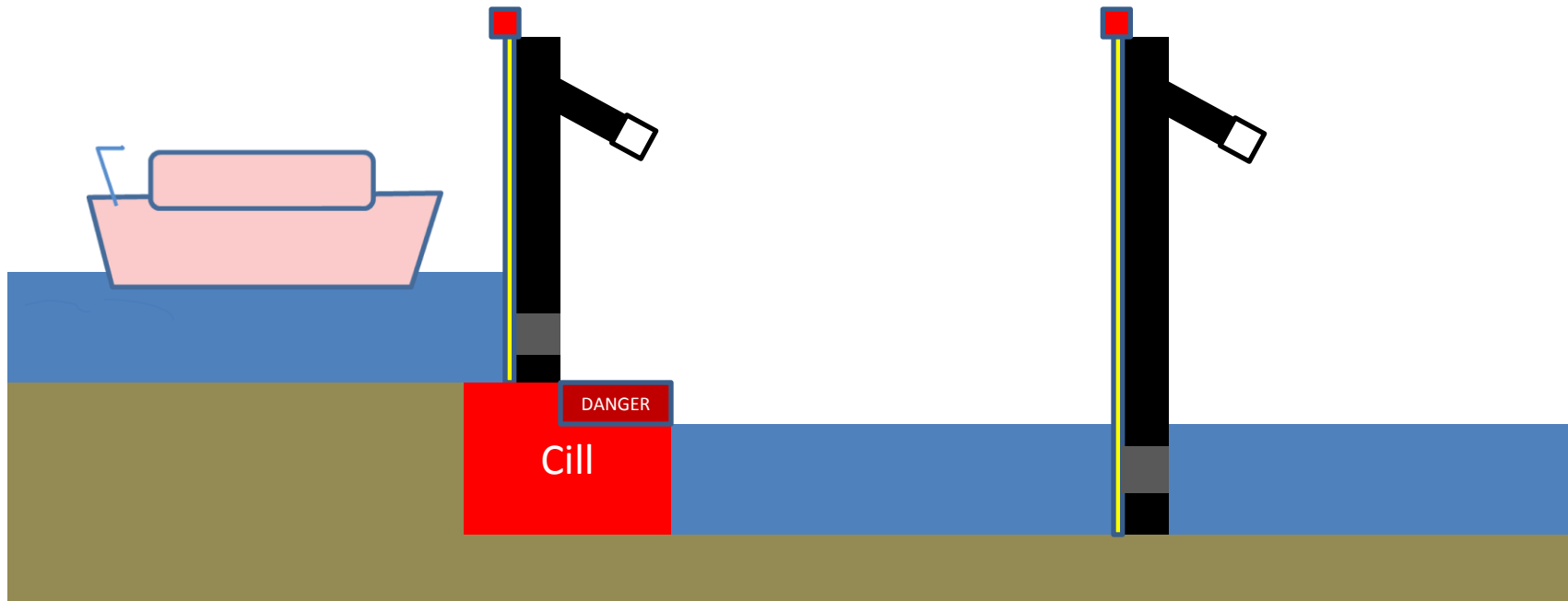
Remember to check you have your lock keys with you before you set off again.



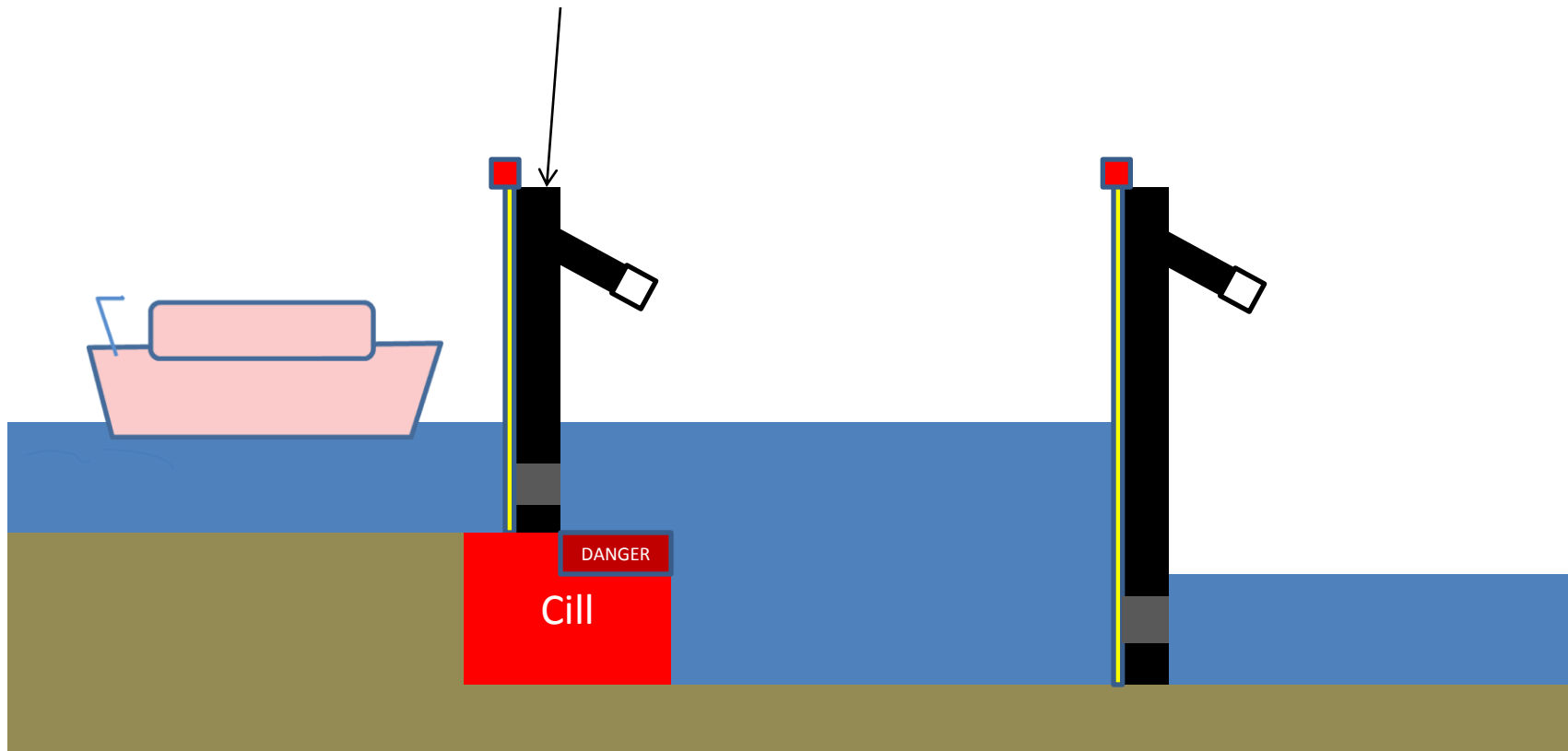
## 2. Going Down in a Lock

**If the lock is empty when you approach it,  
fill it as previously described.**

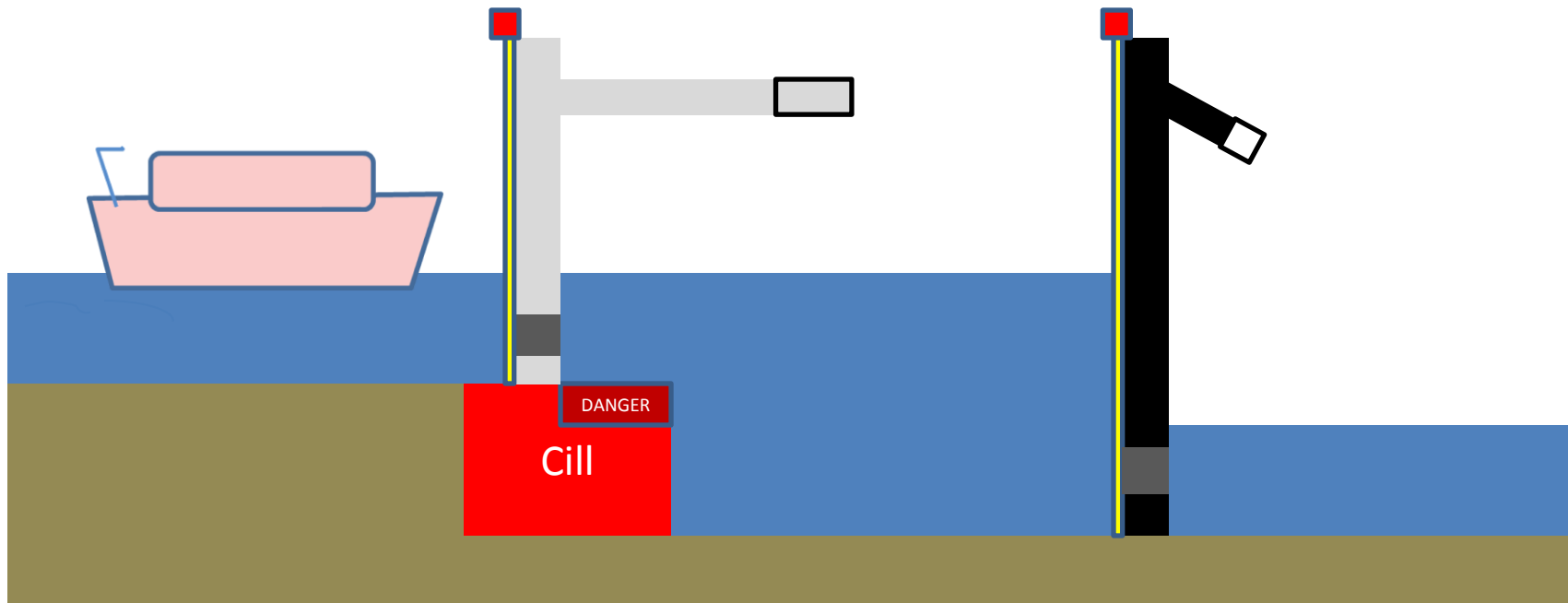
Stop and moor up safely.

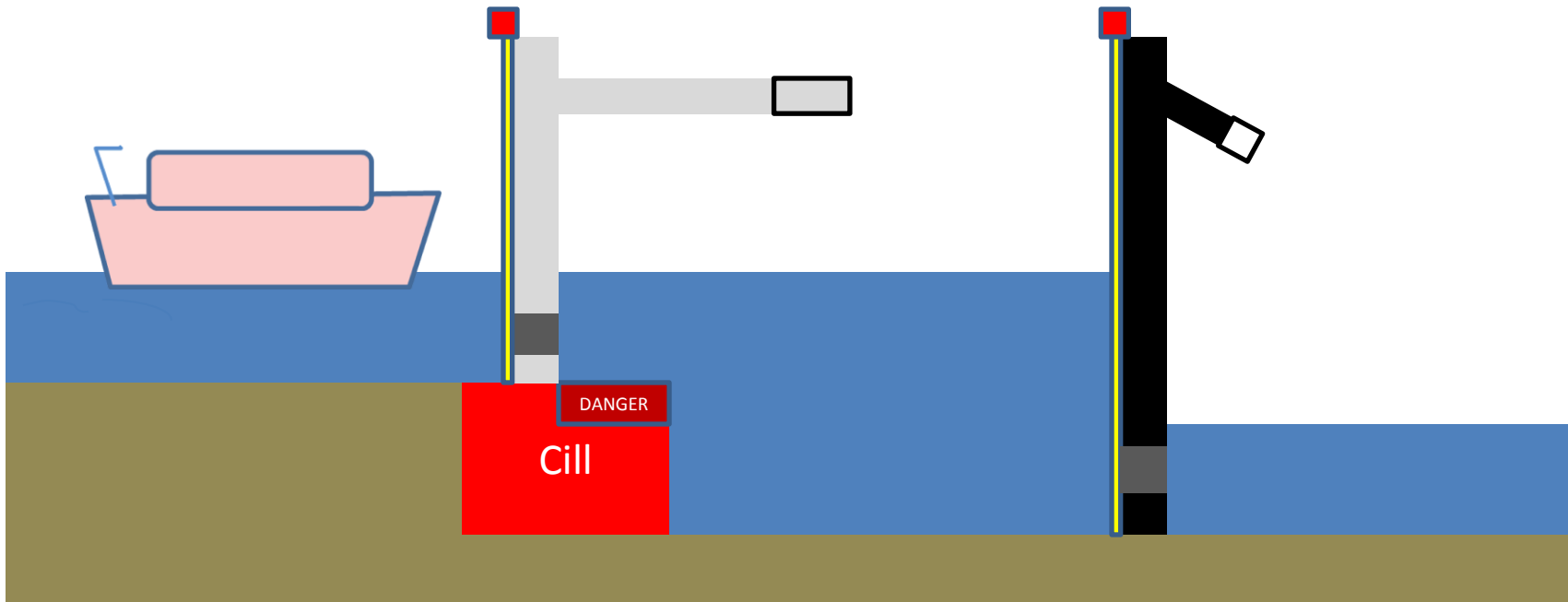


Open the gate.



Gate open

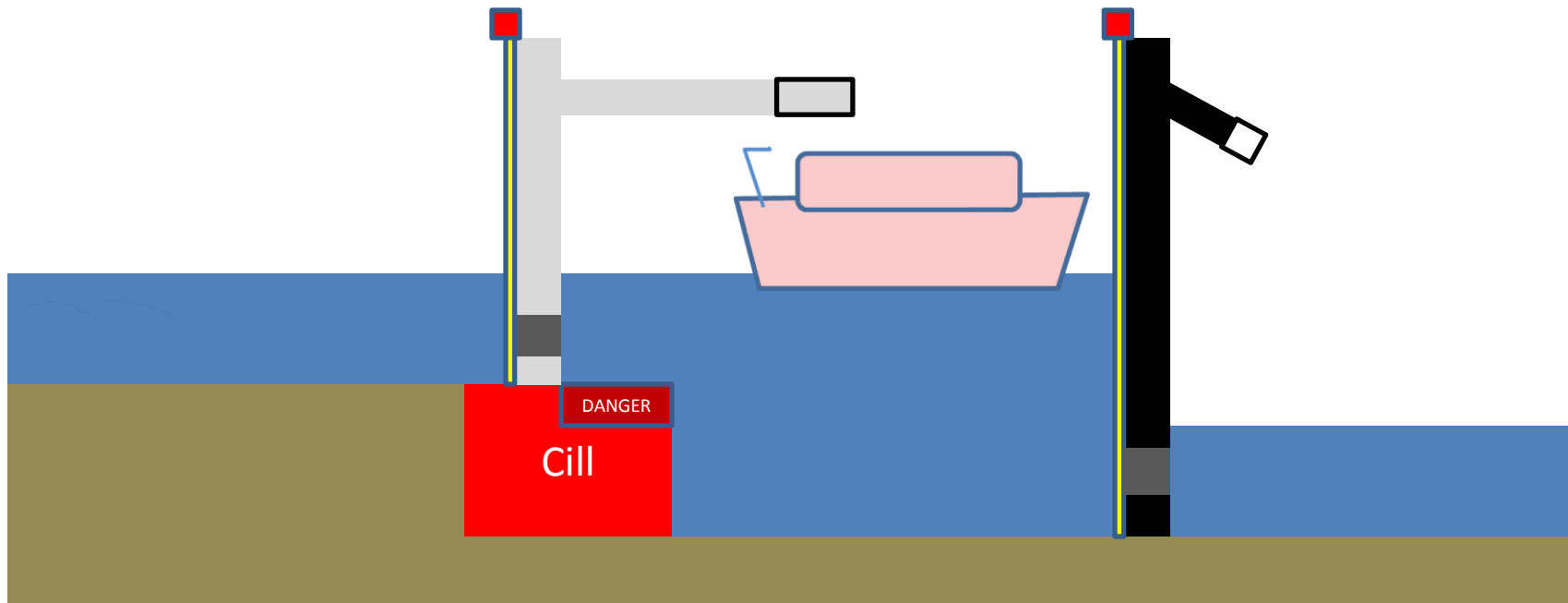




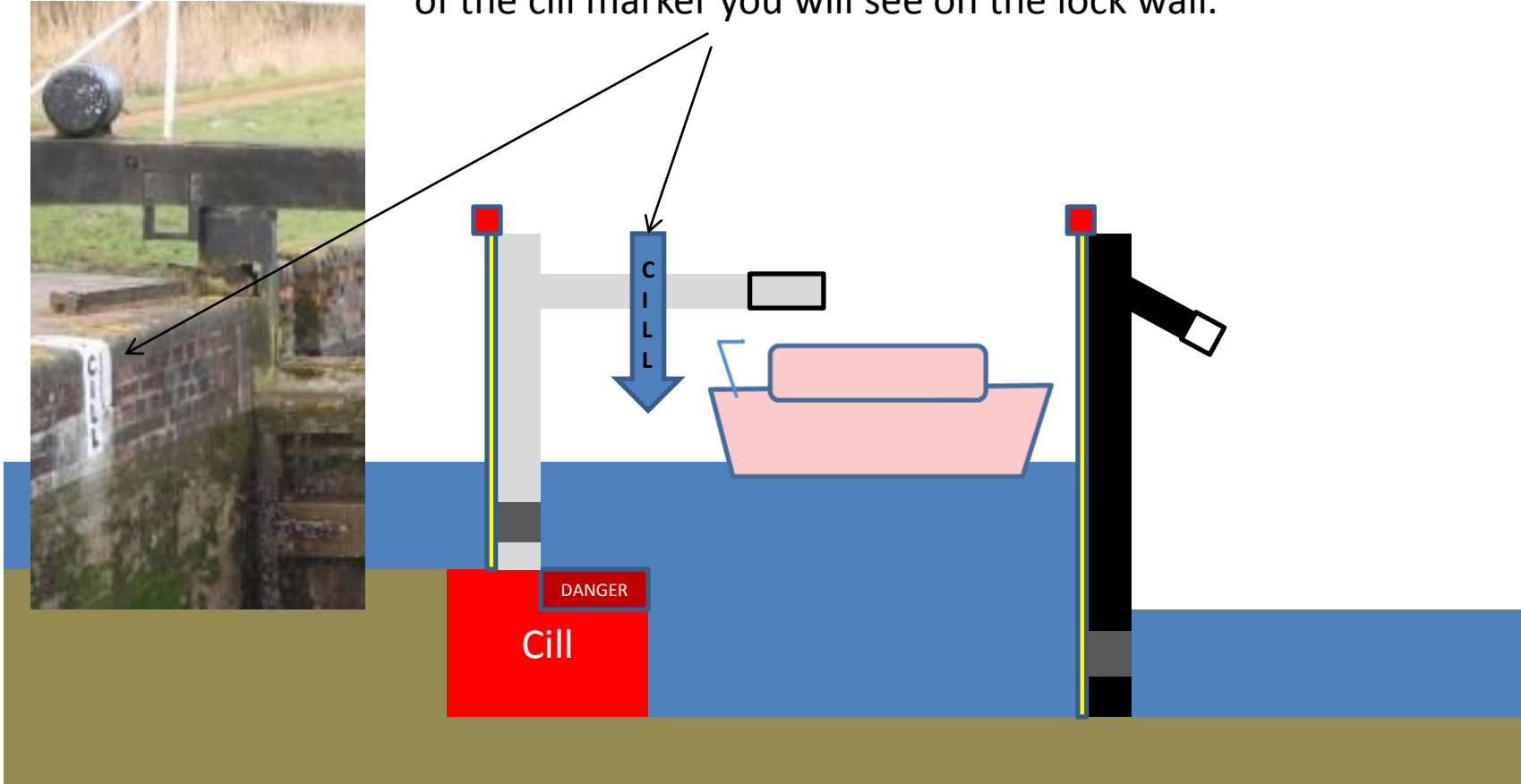
Hold boat in place using bow and stern ropes.

NB. NEVER tie a boat up in a lock. Always hold the boat with a single turn round the bollard and watch for snagging ropes.

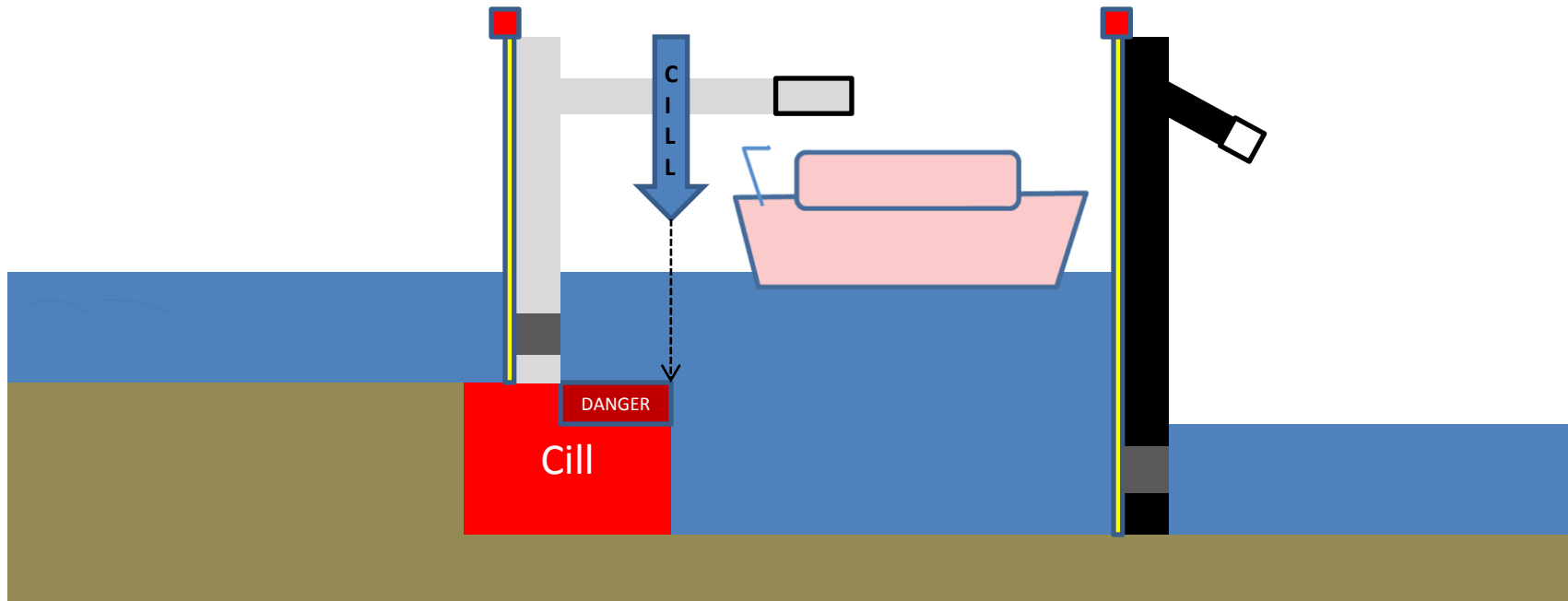
Slowly let out the rope as the boat lowers in the lock. If a rope jams/locks, shut all paddles immediately and refloat the boat by letting water back into the lock.



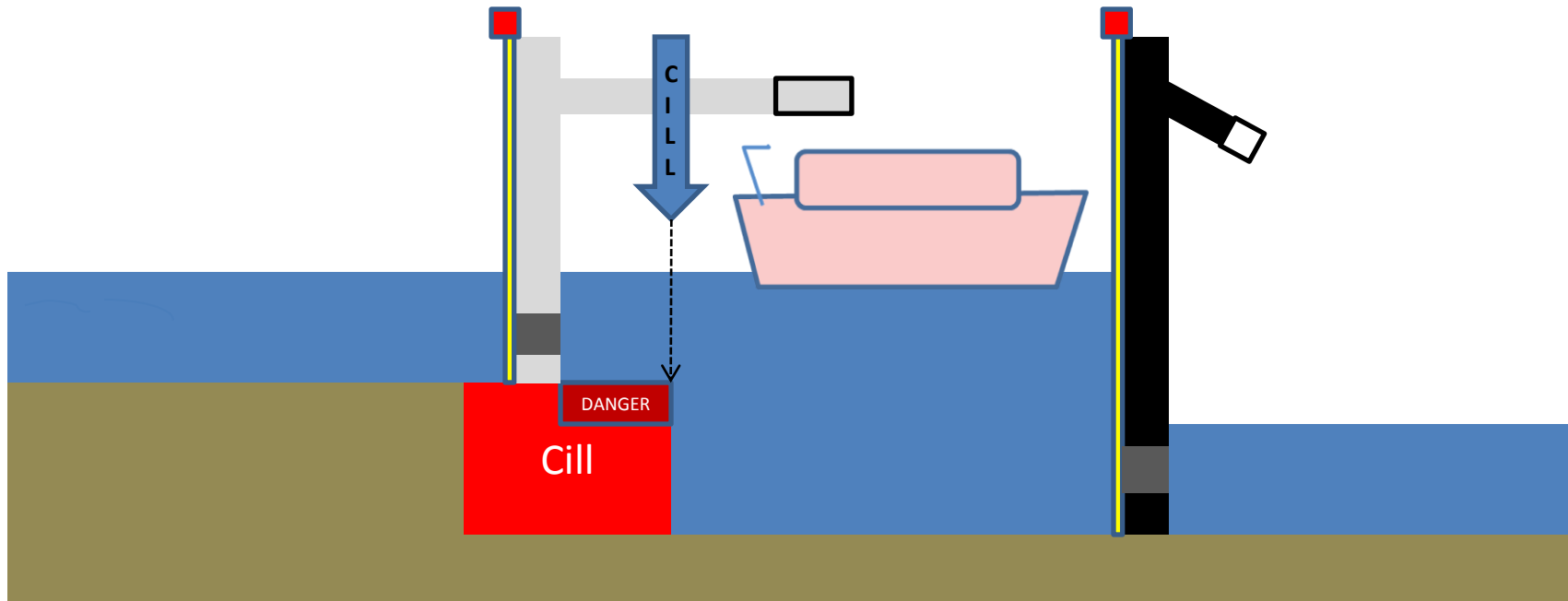
Ensure you hold the boat close to the bottom gate *in front* of the cill marker you will see on the lock wall.

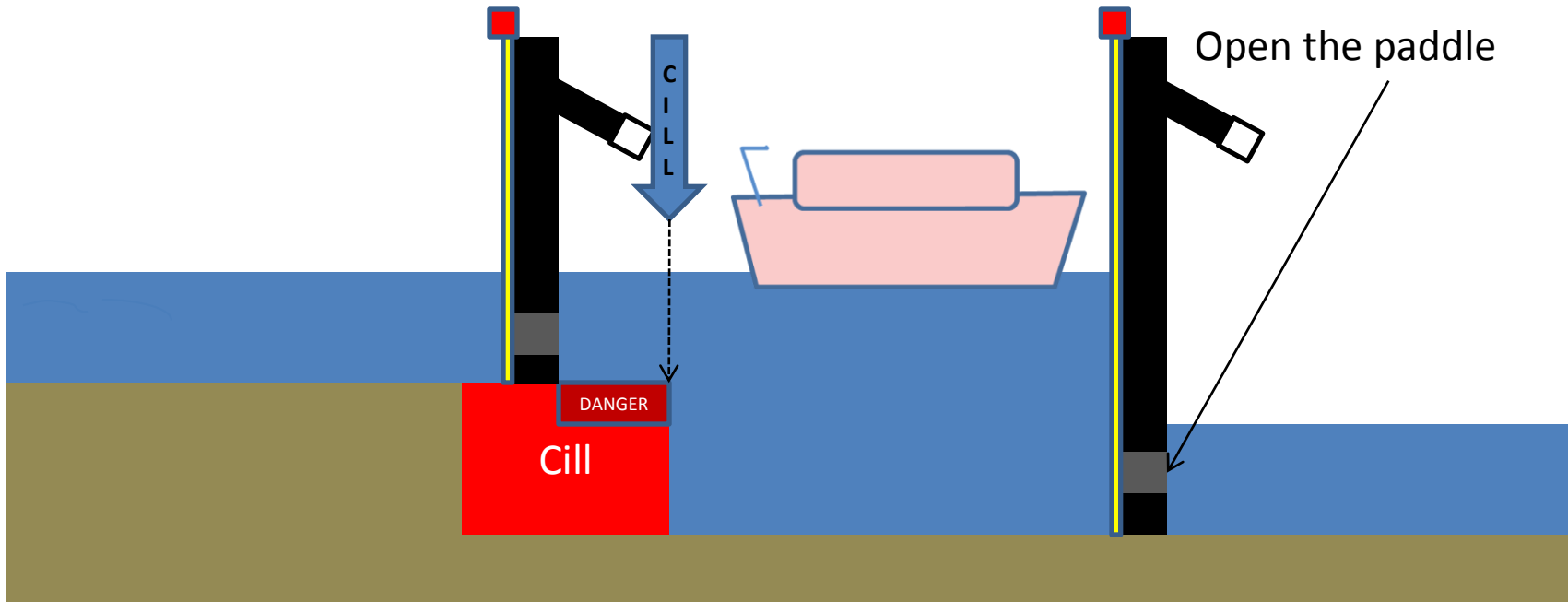


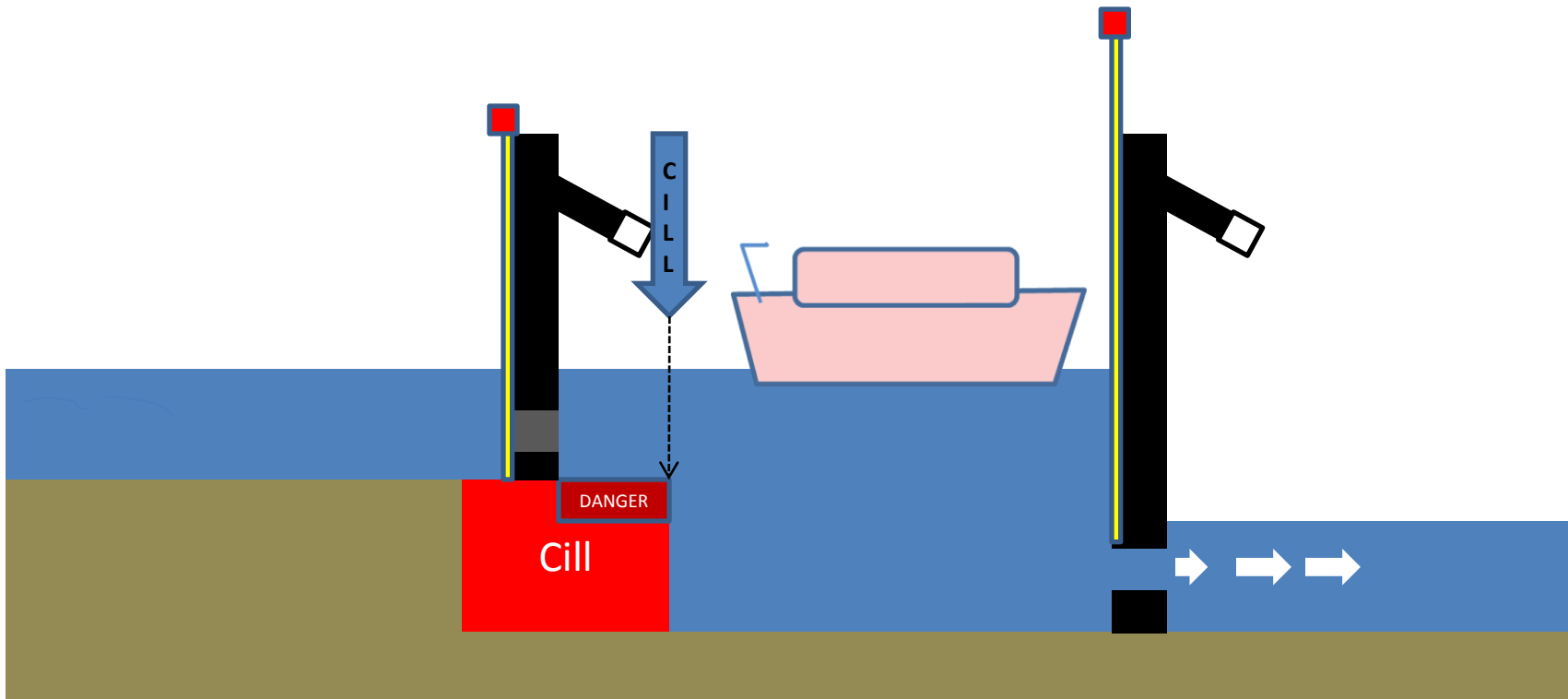
This will prevent you landing the boat on the lock cill that becomes exposed when the lock empties.



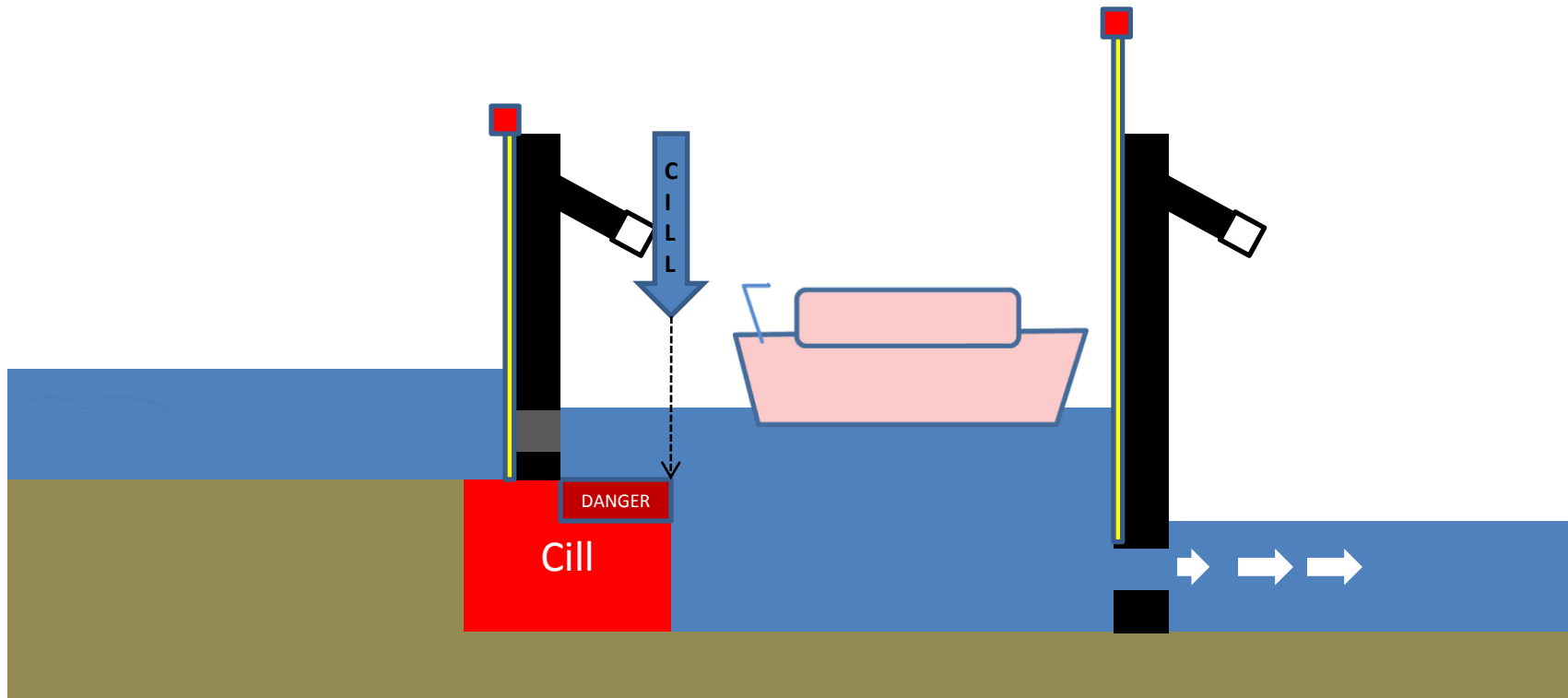
Shut the gate....



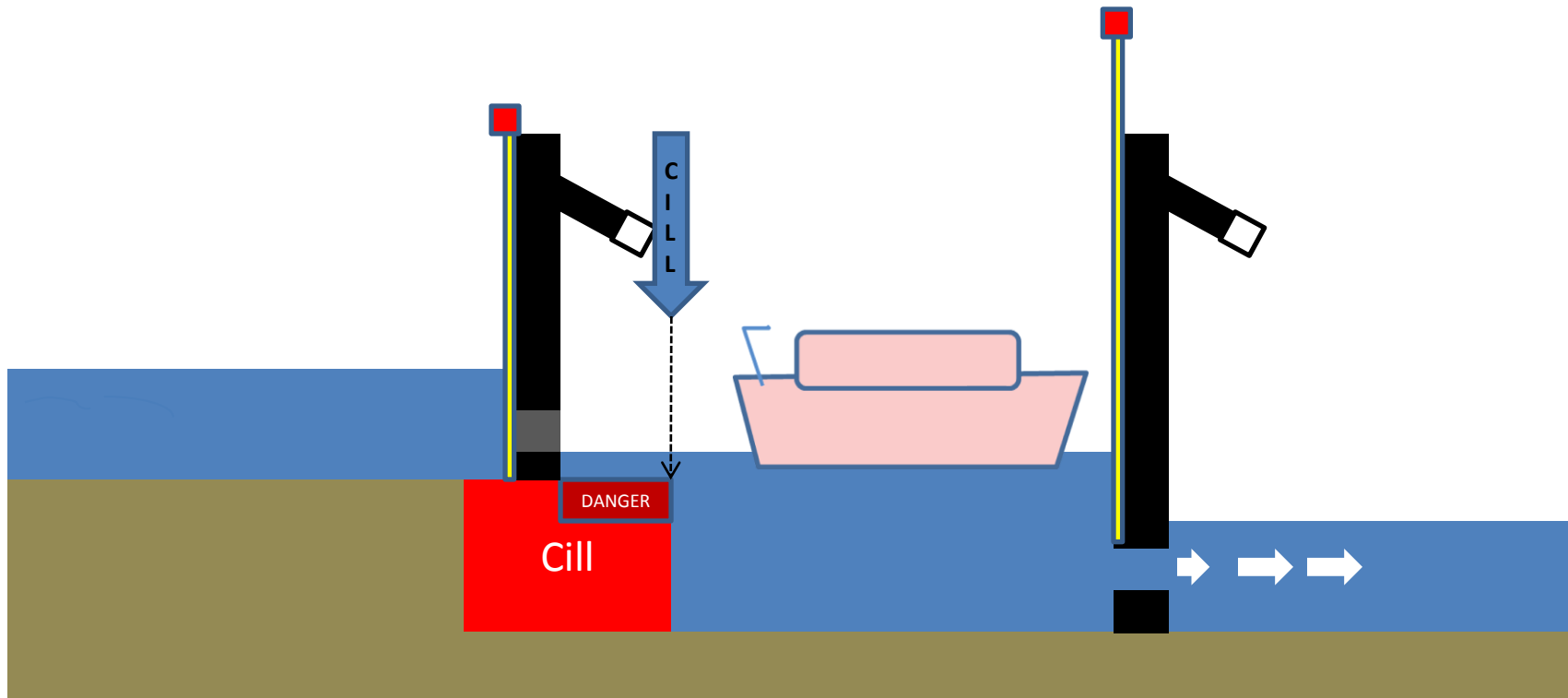


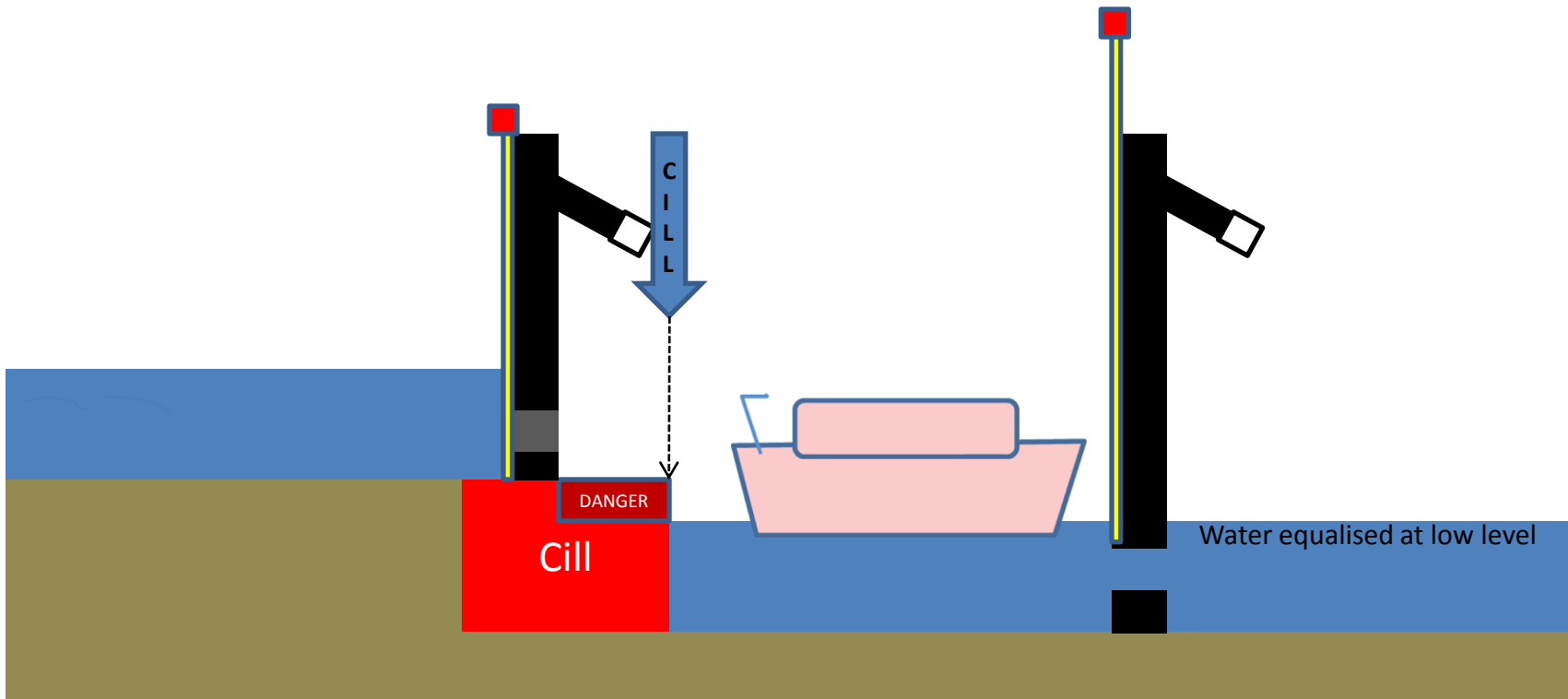


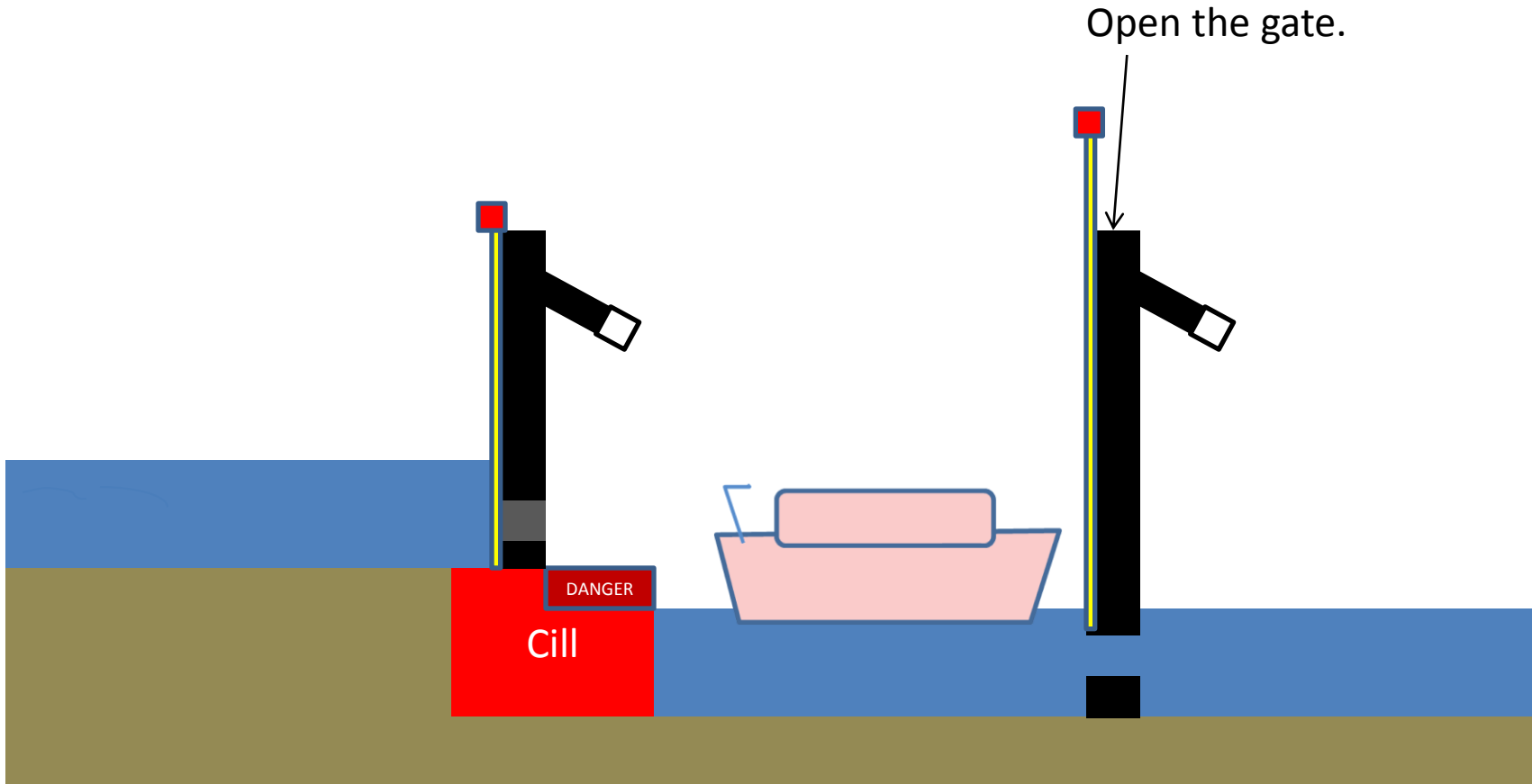
Watch the boat at all times when ascending or descending a lock.  
Quickly drop all paddles in the event of a problem.

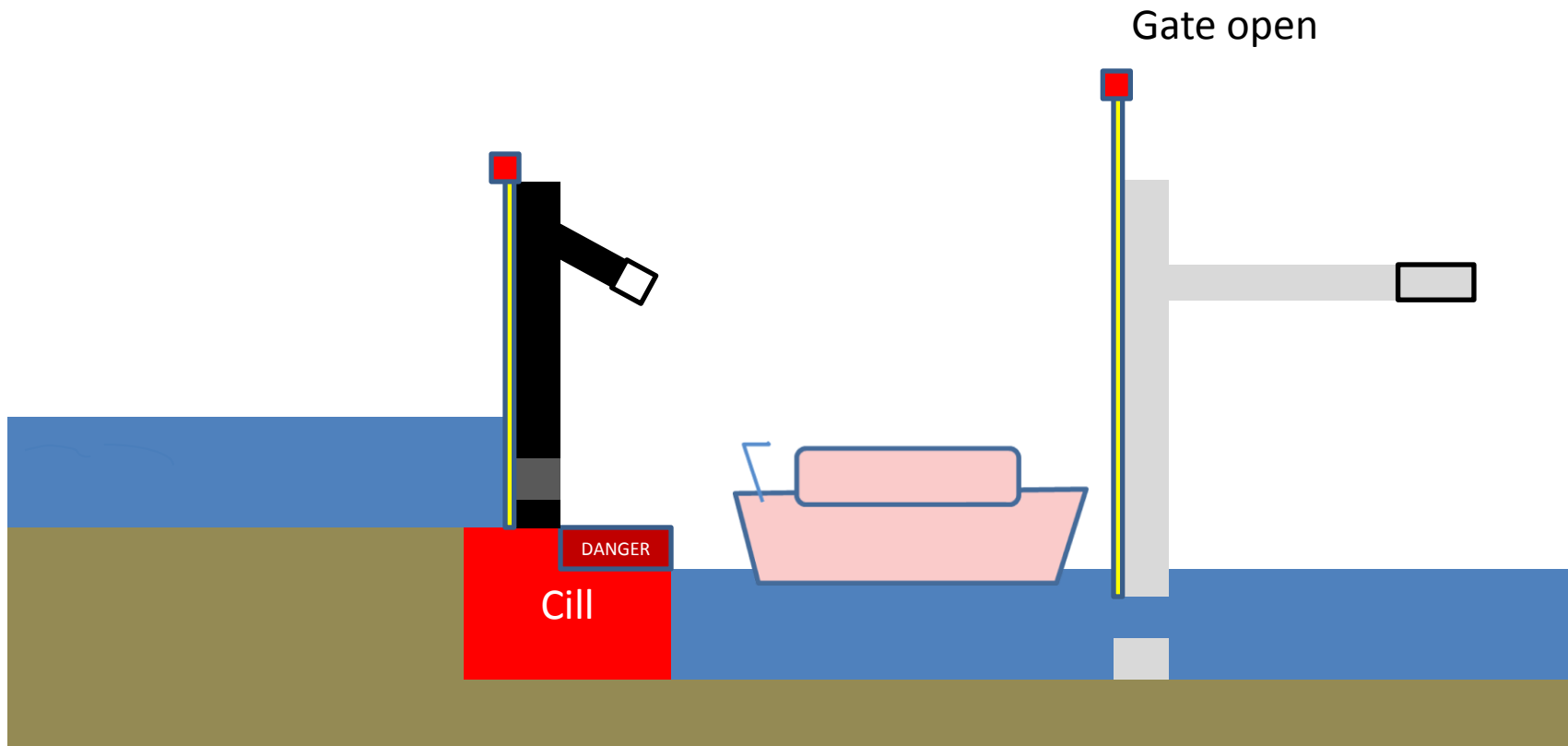


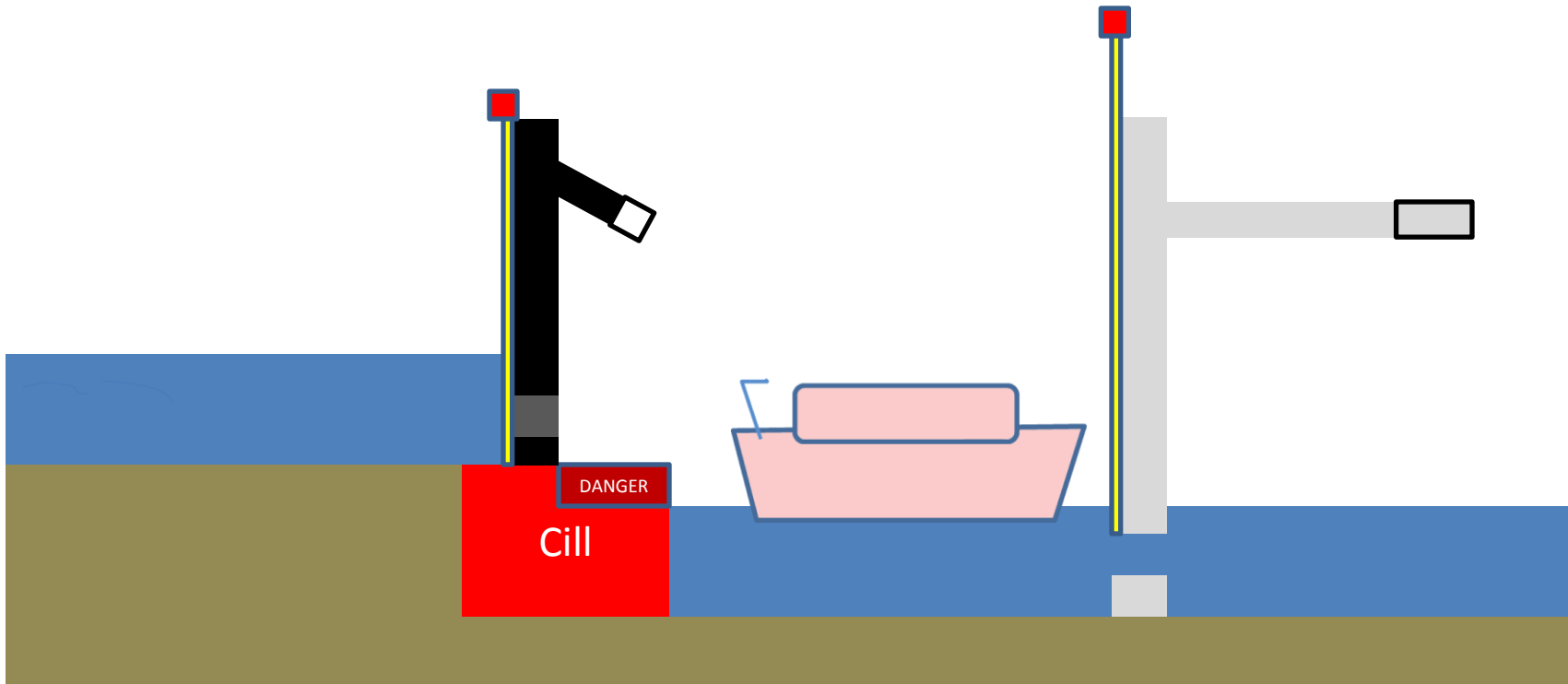
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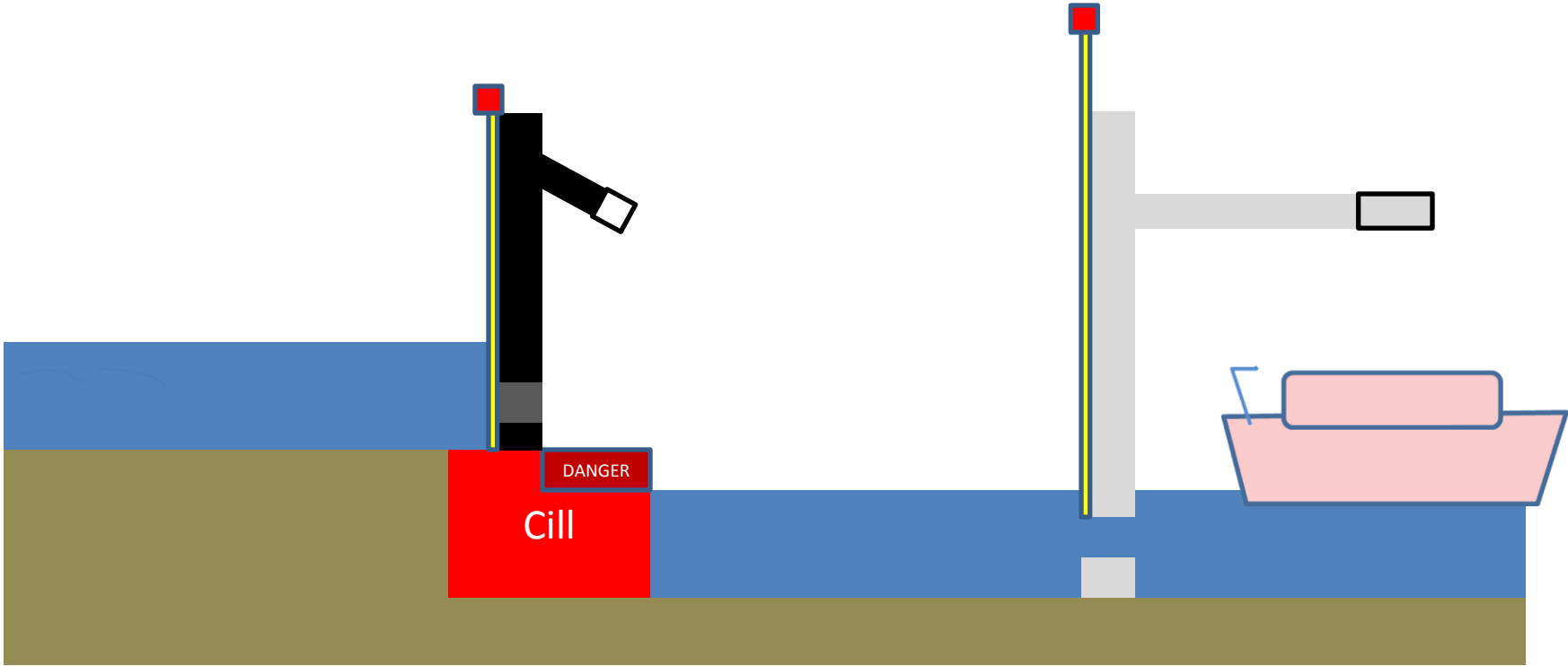


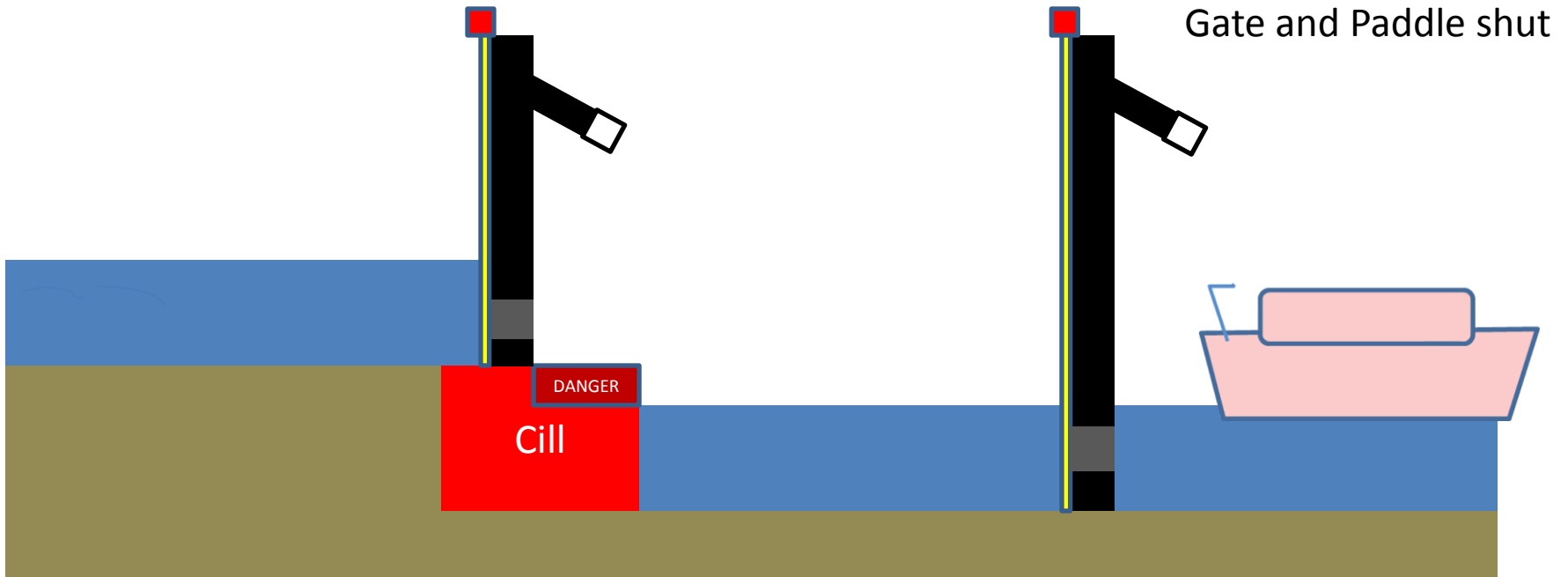




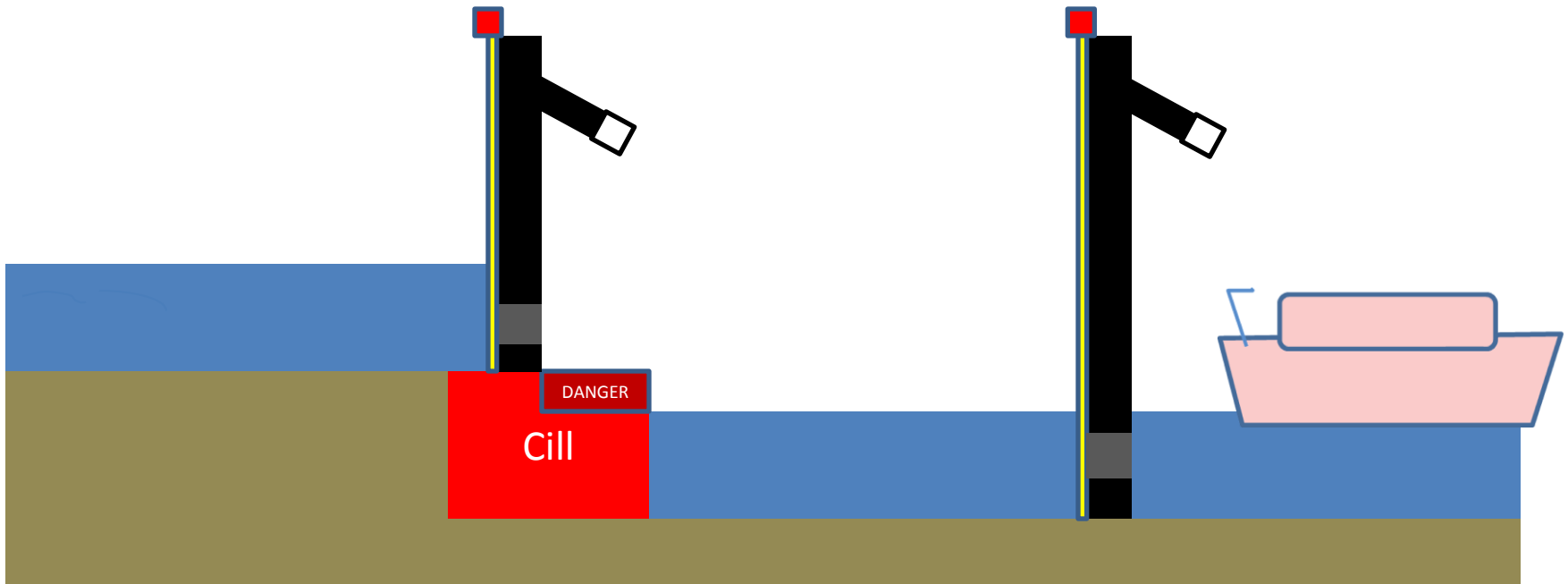


Stop and moor up safely.  
Shut the gate and paddle.



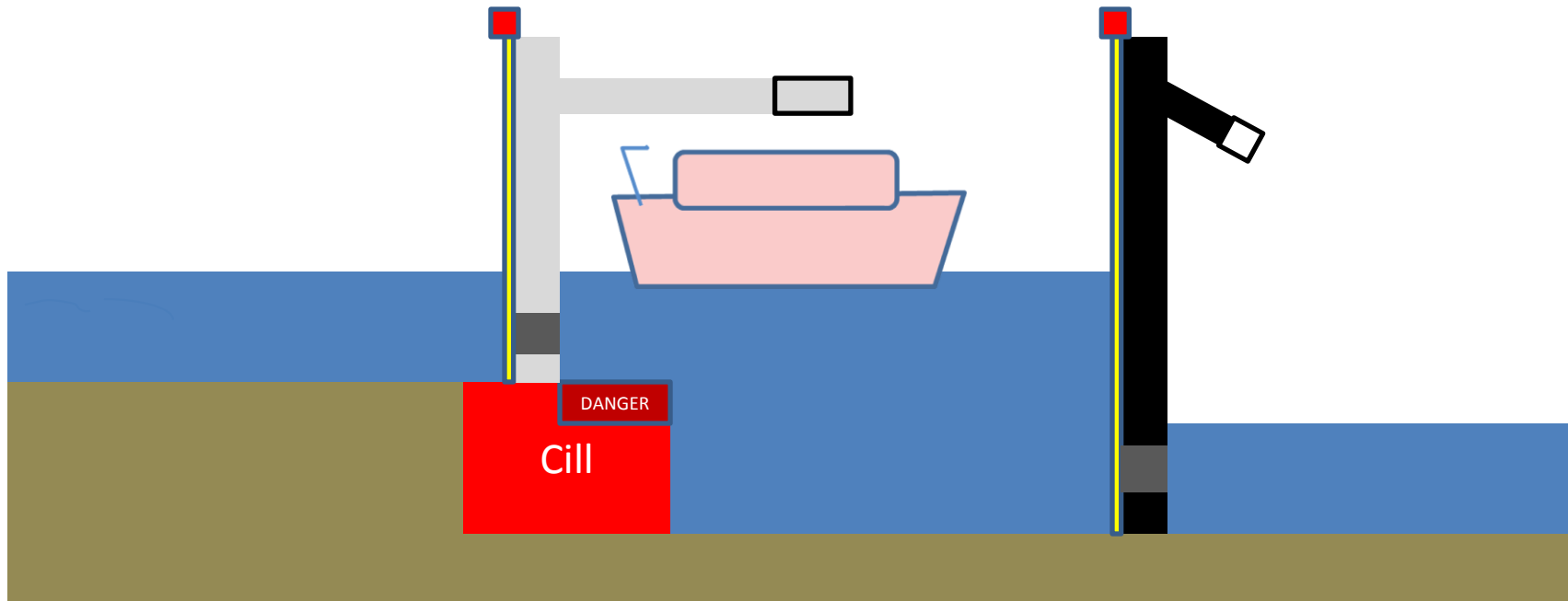


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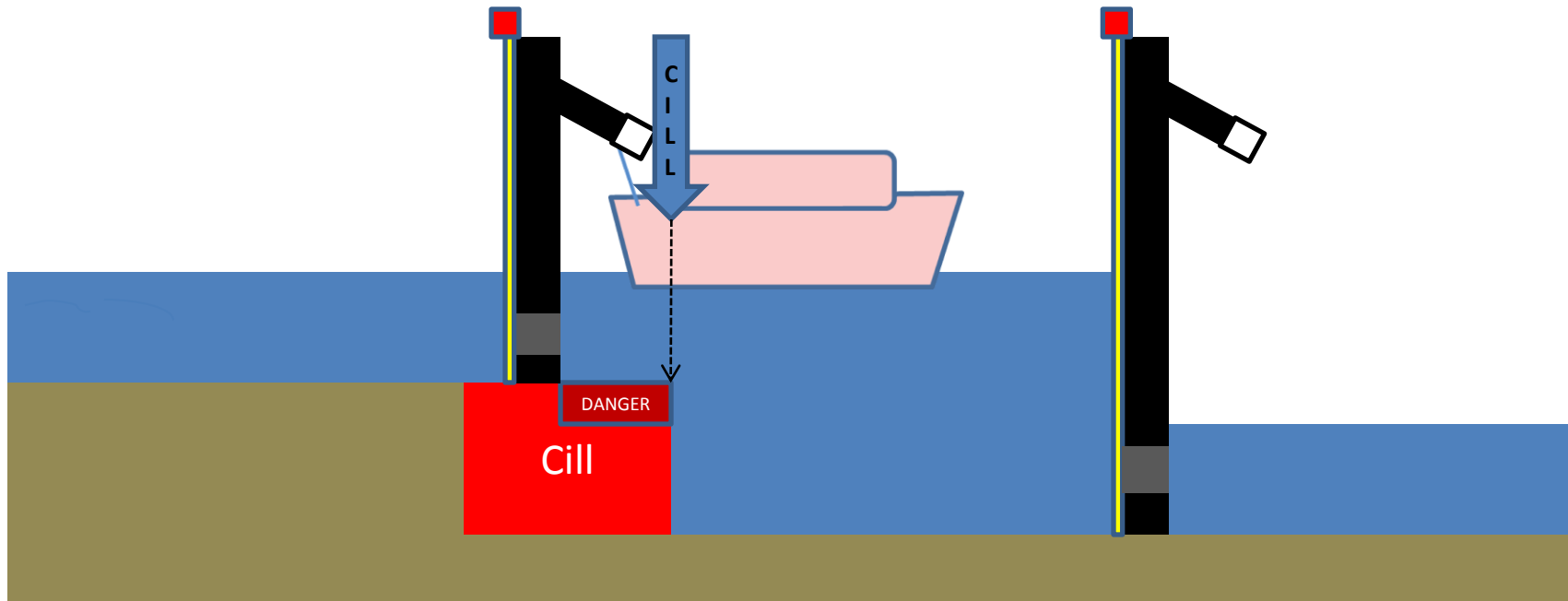


### 3. Danger! What not to do!

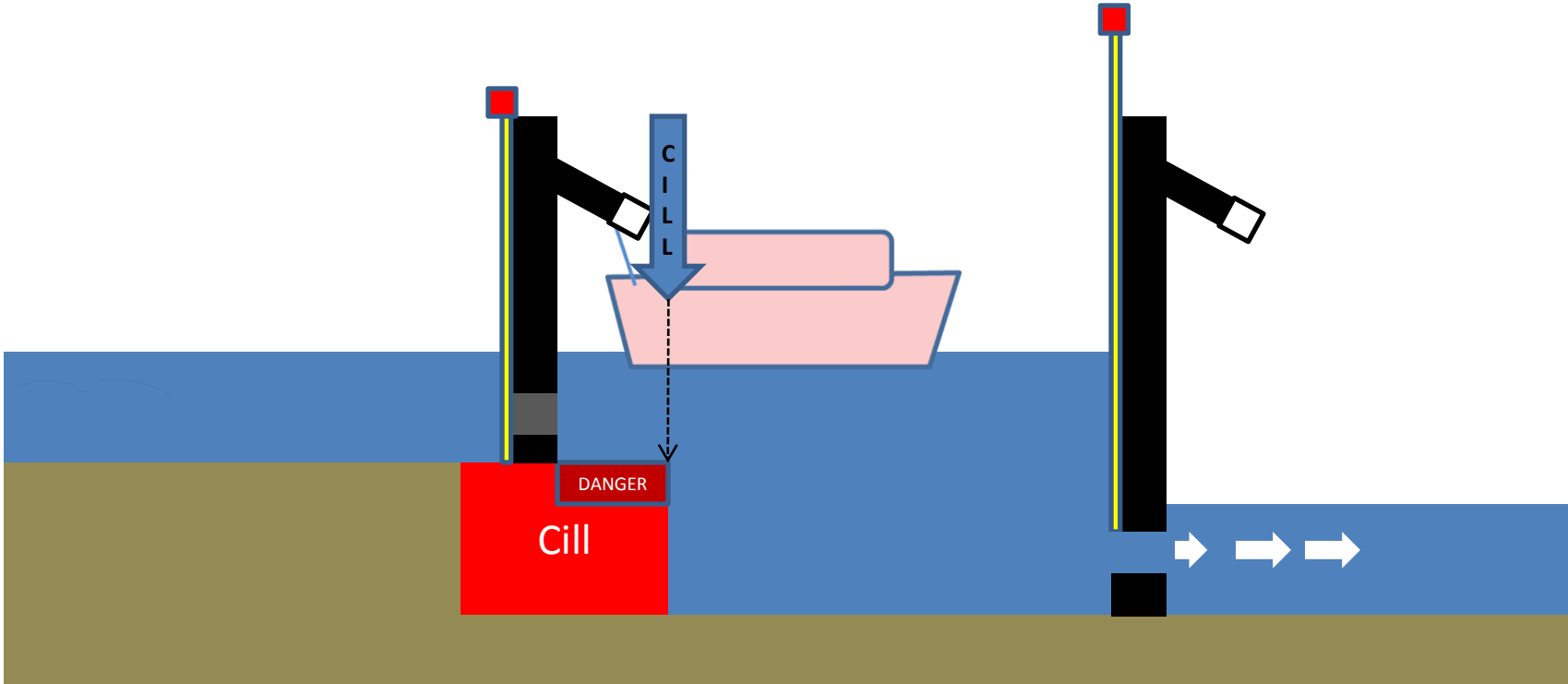
DANGER! If you enter a full lock to descend.....

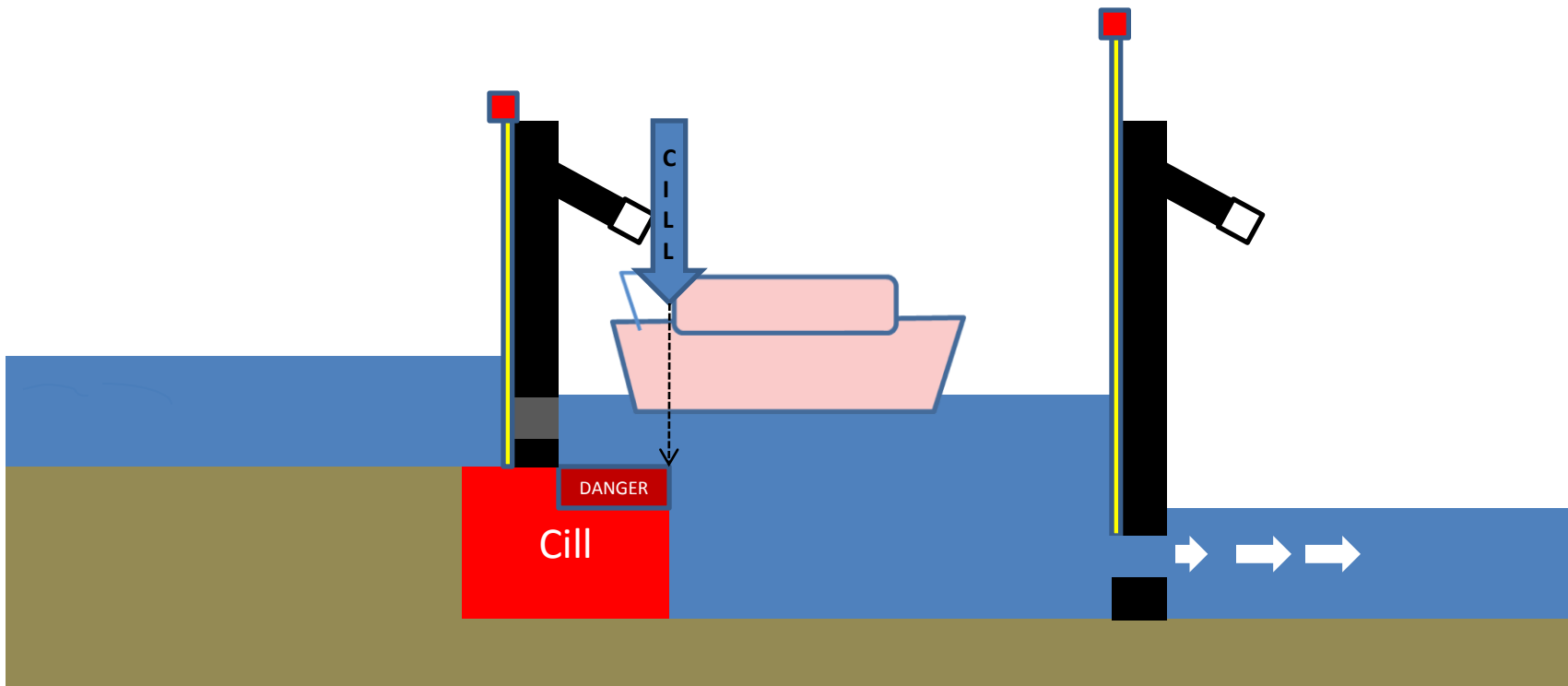


If you ~~DON'T~~ make sure the boat is held in front of the cill markers...

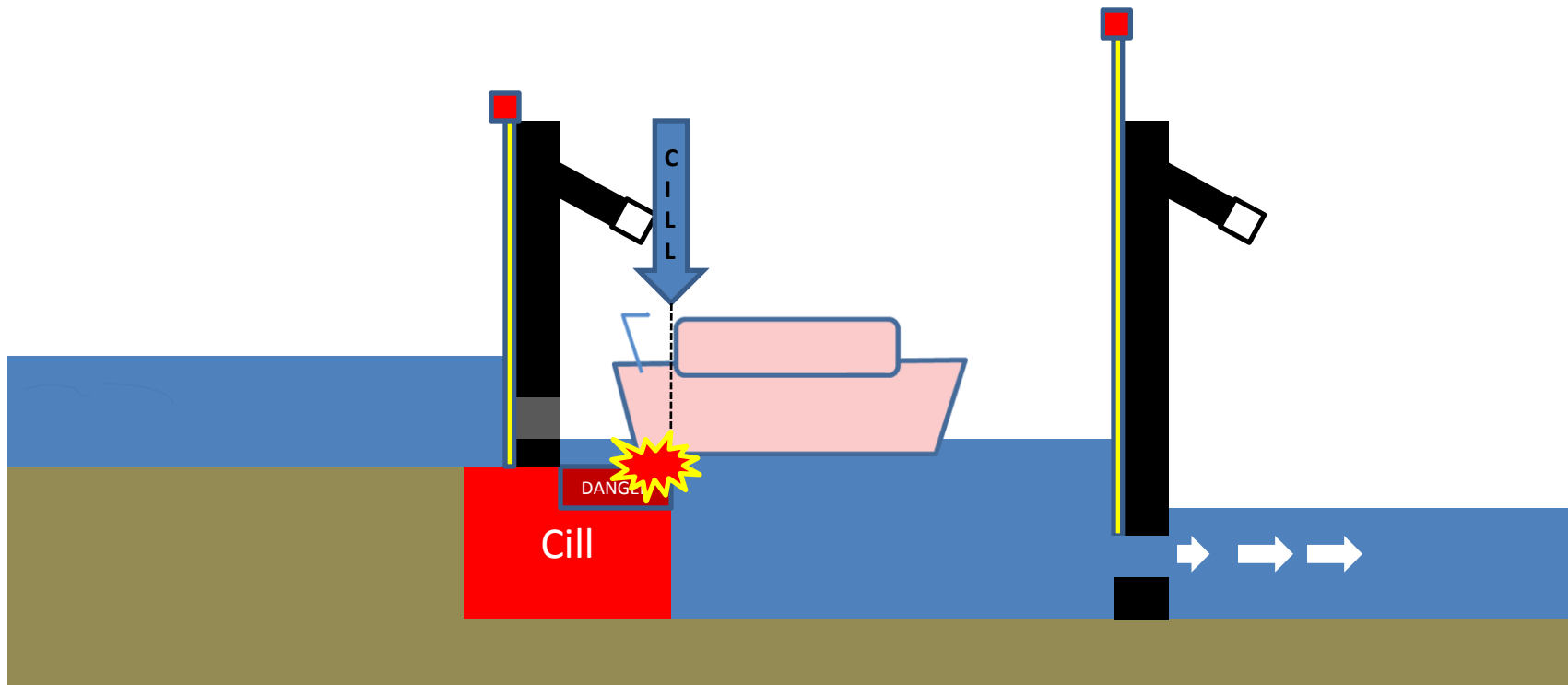


If you ~~DON'T~~ make sure the boat is held in front of the cill markers...

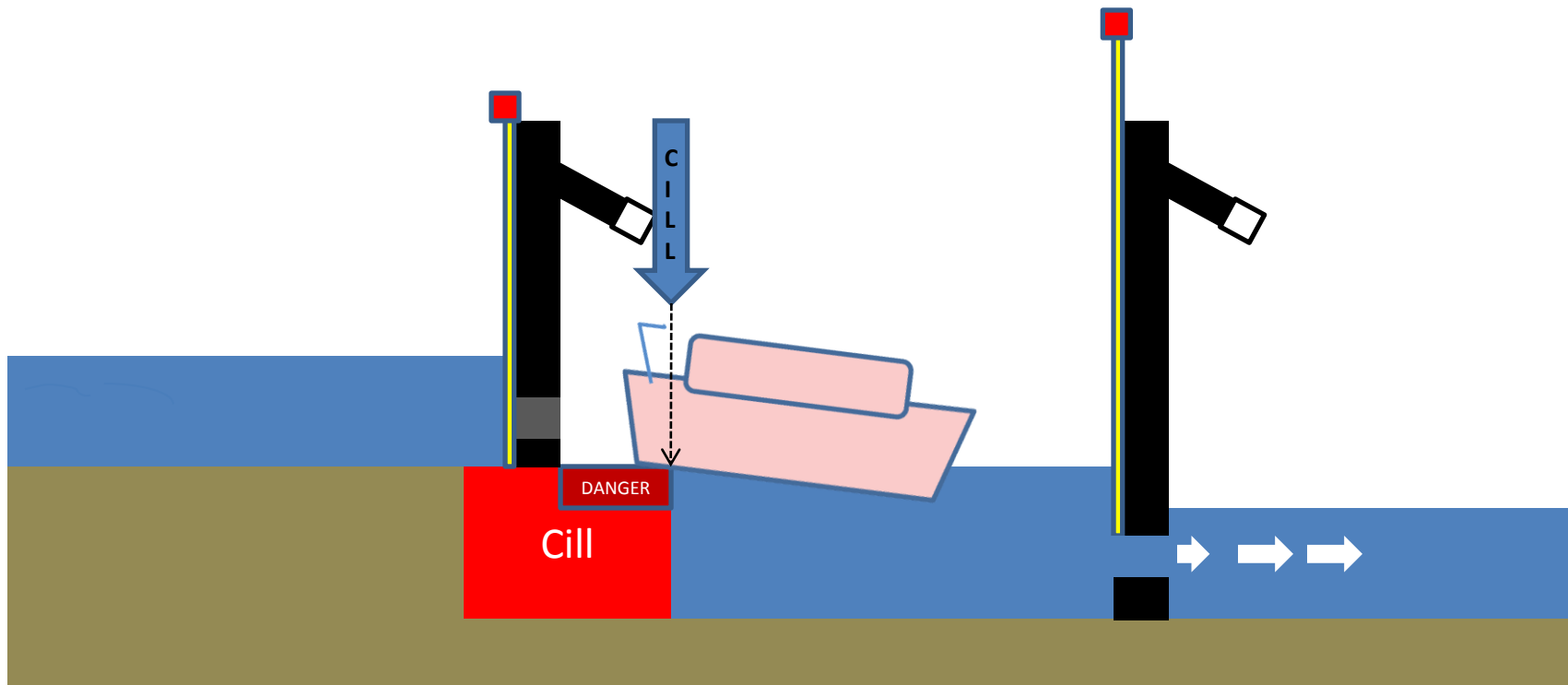




You will land on it, crushing the propeller, which will be the end of your holiday.



You could end up filling the boat with water, endangering those still on board.



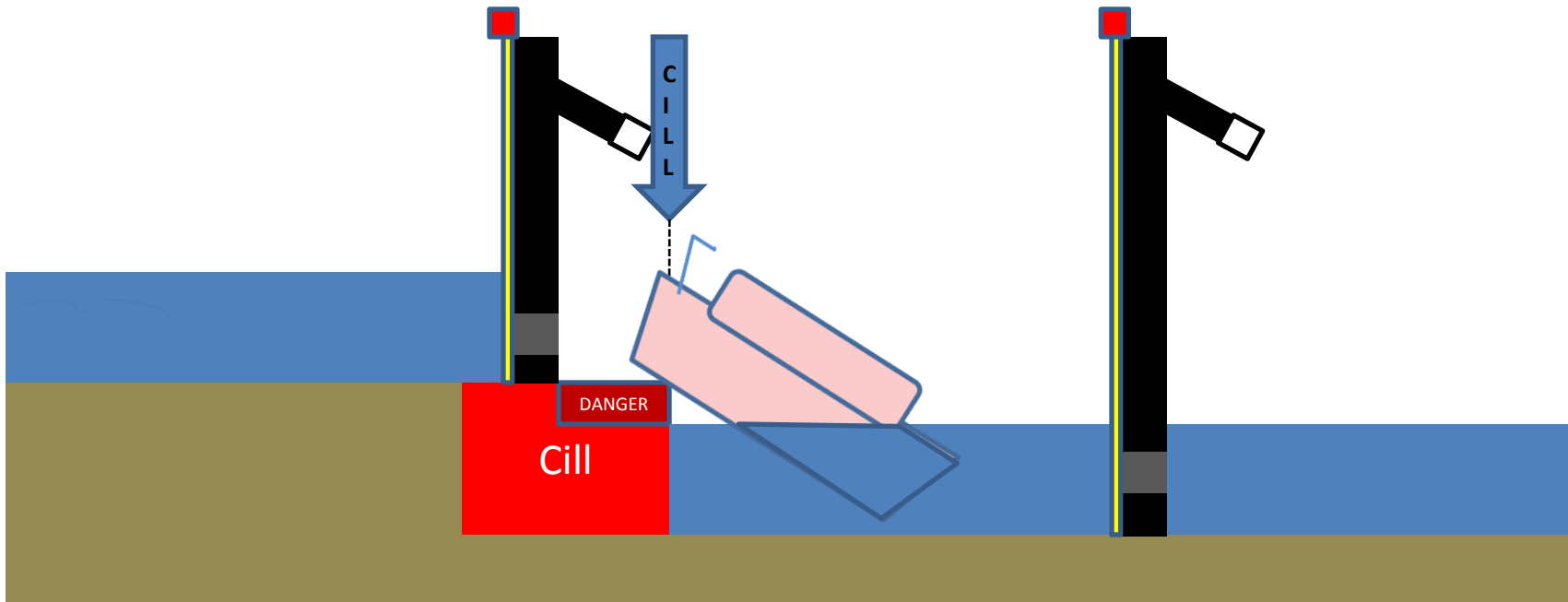
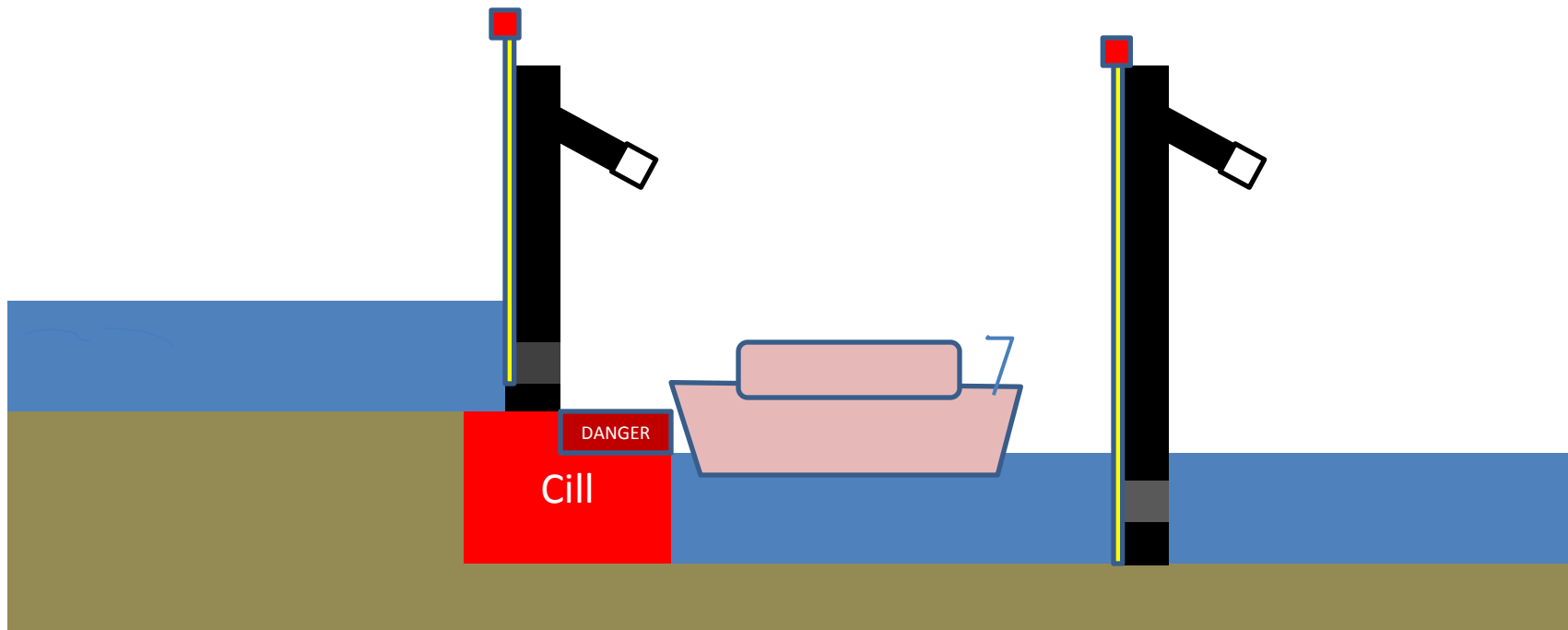




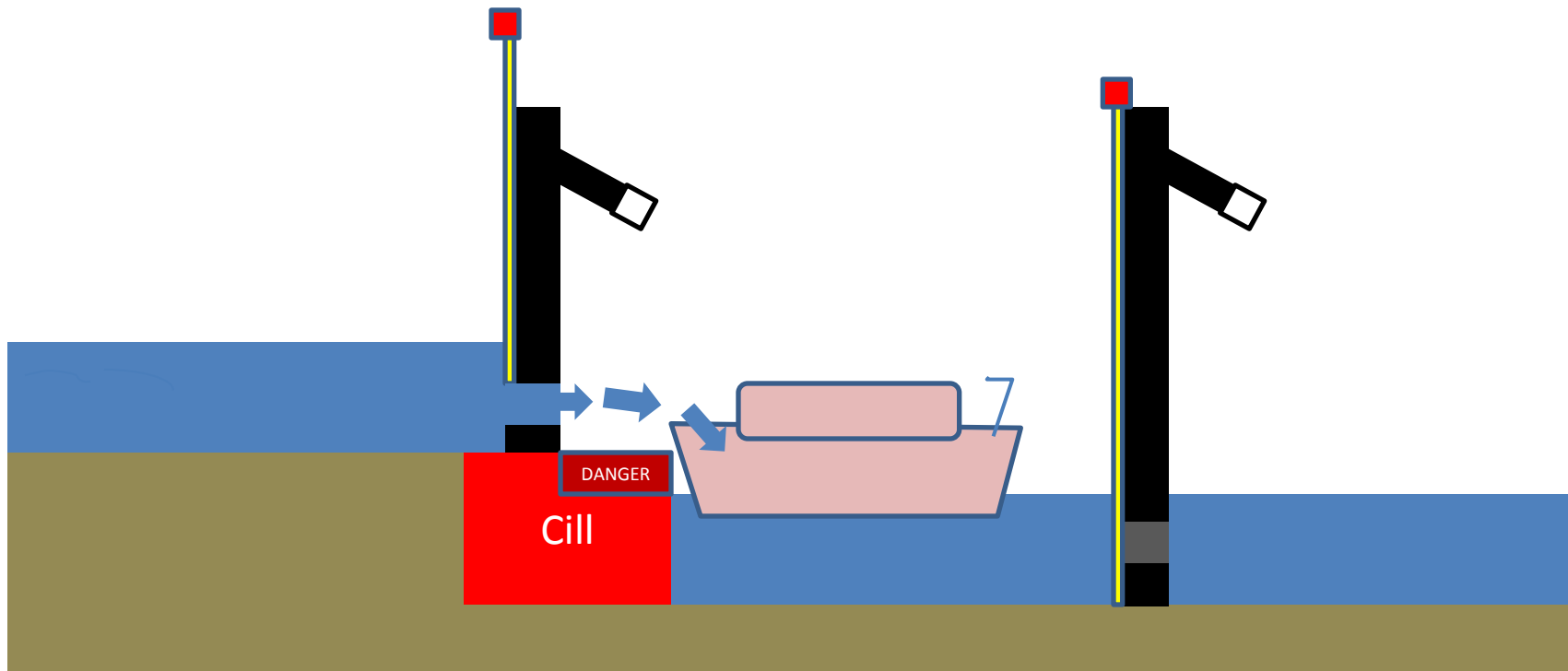
Photo courtesy The Kennet and Avon Trust

Another danger to watch for.

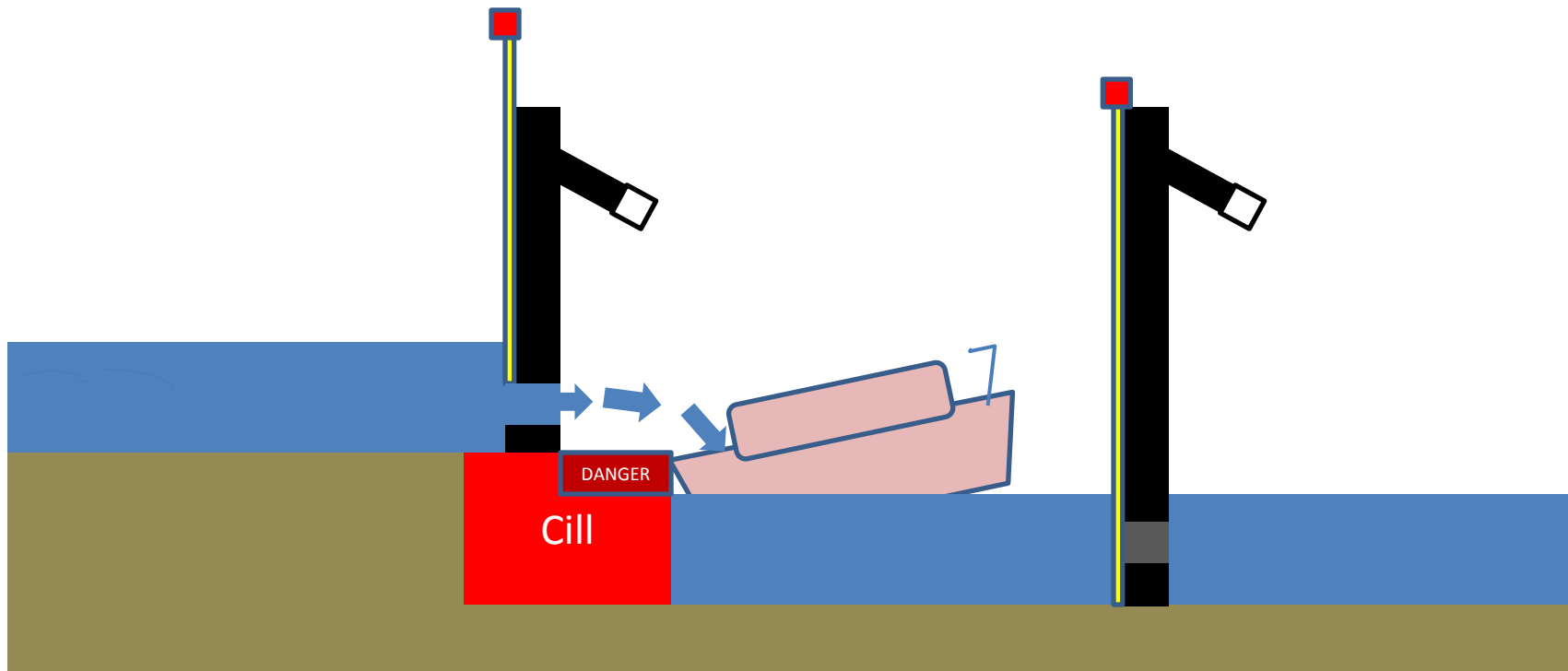
Do not get too close to the water jets when going up in a lock.

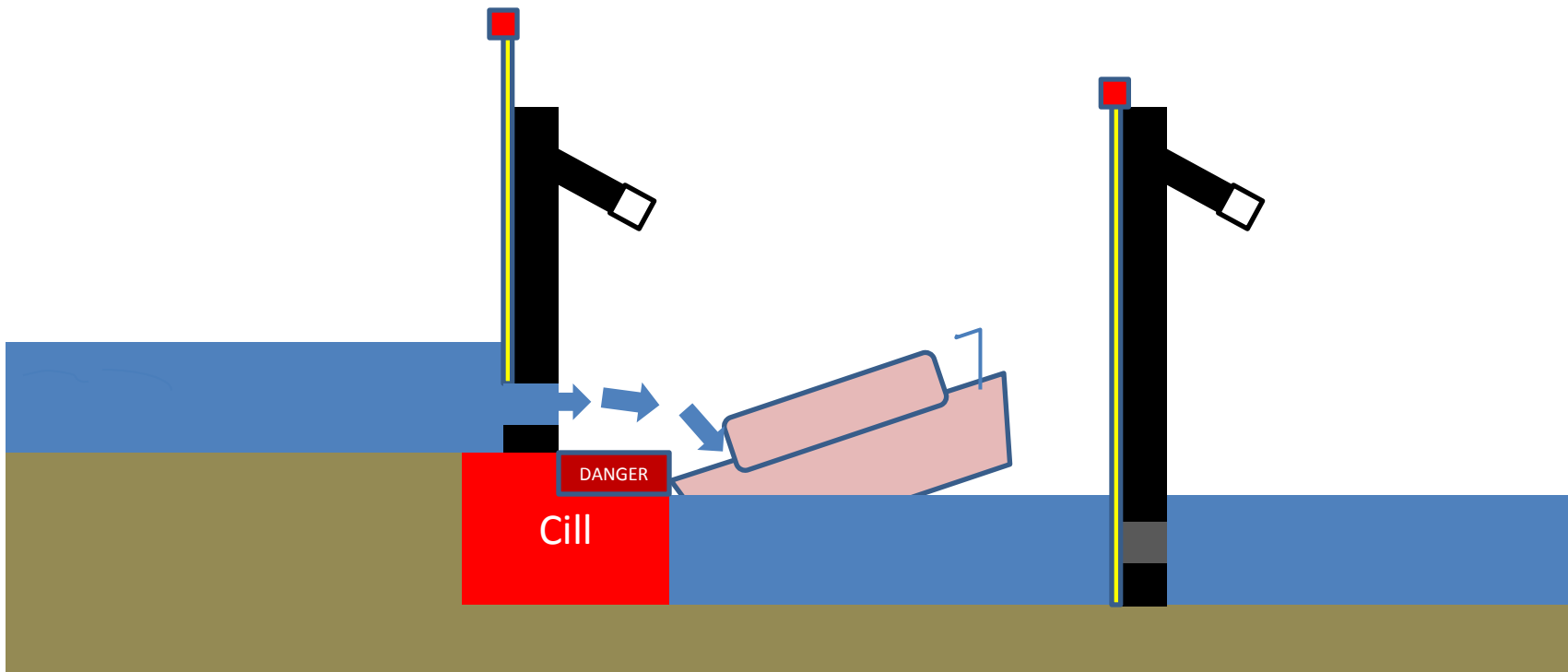


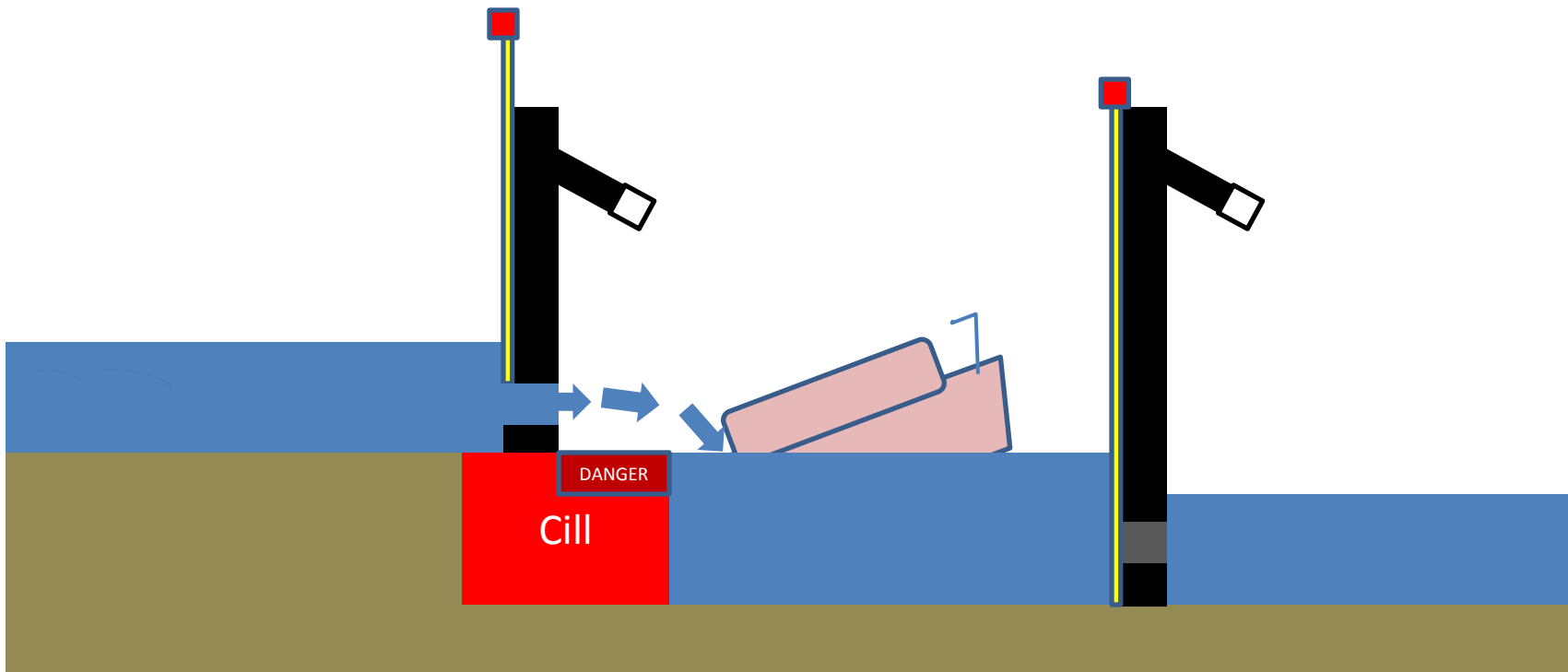
Do not get too close to the water jets when going up in a lock.



Do not get too close to the water jets when going up in a lock.





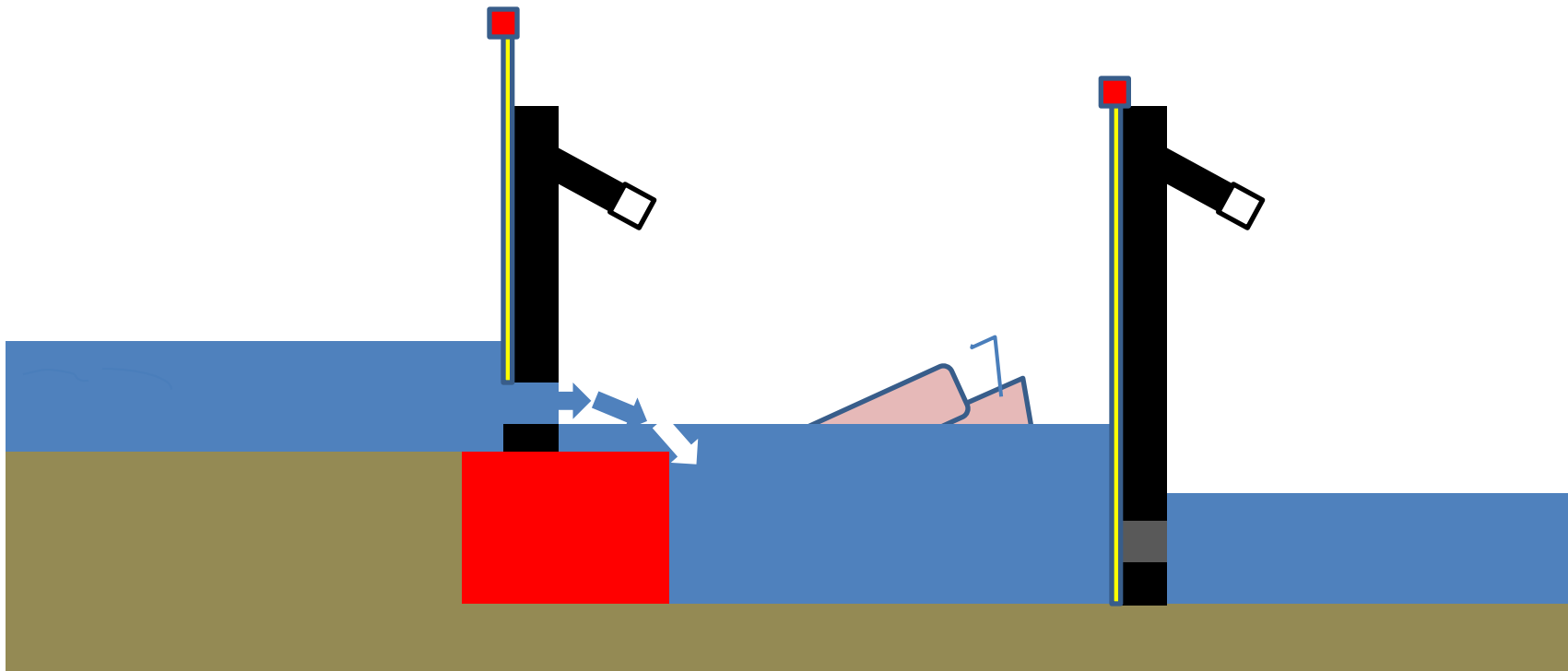


## REMEMBER

Watch the boat at all times when ascending or descending a lock.

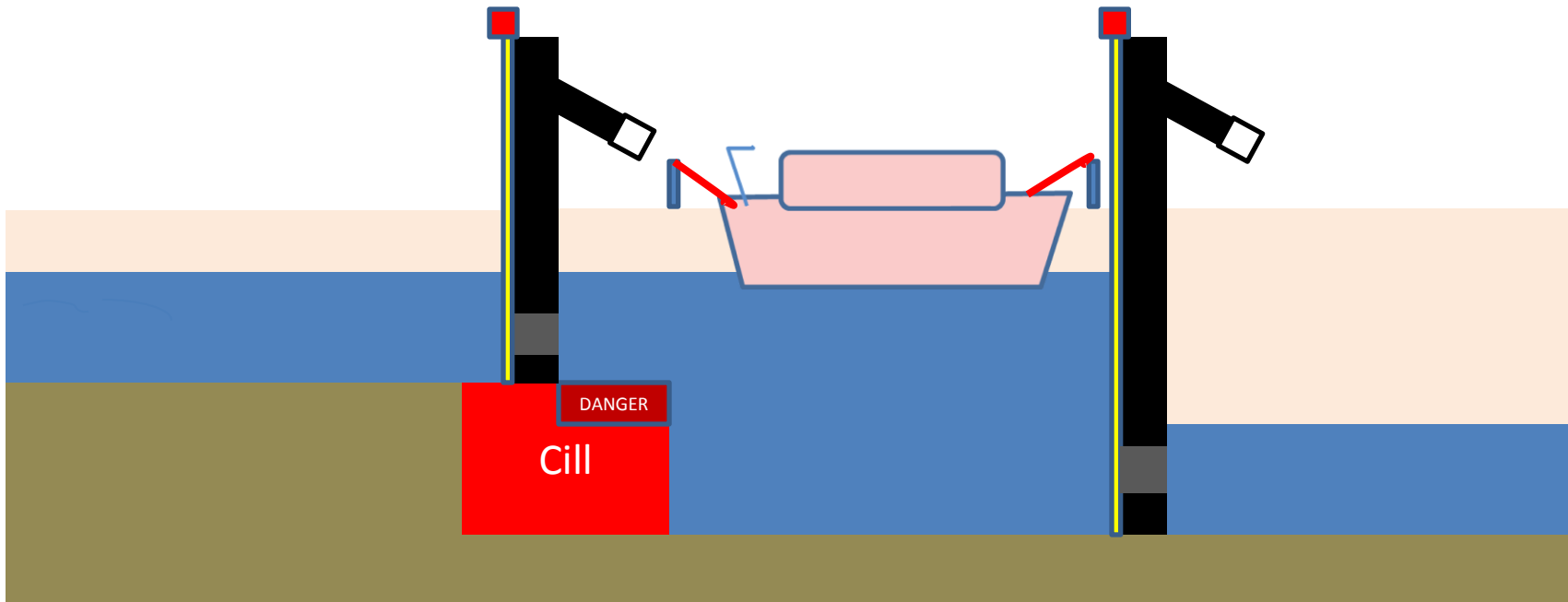
Quickly drop all paddles in the event of a problem.

This should NEVER happen.

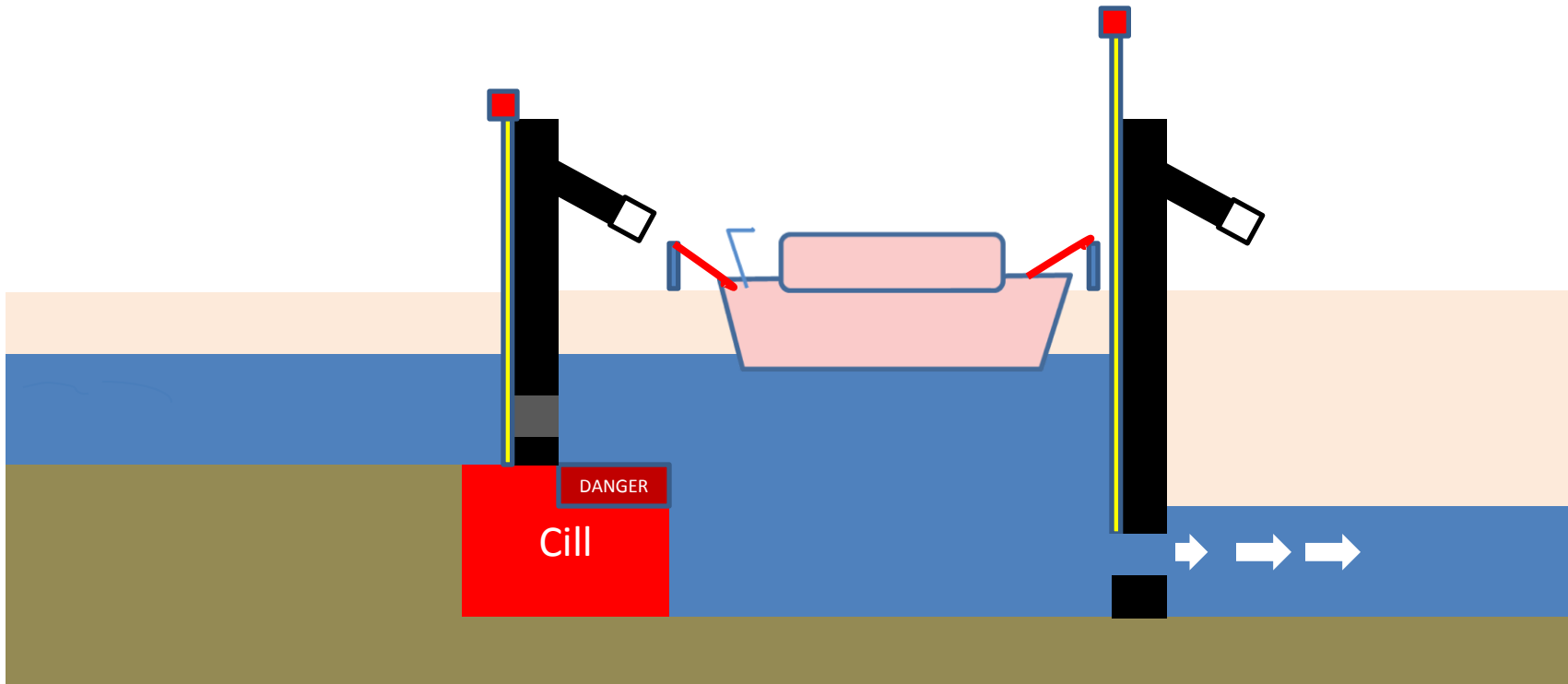


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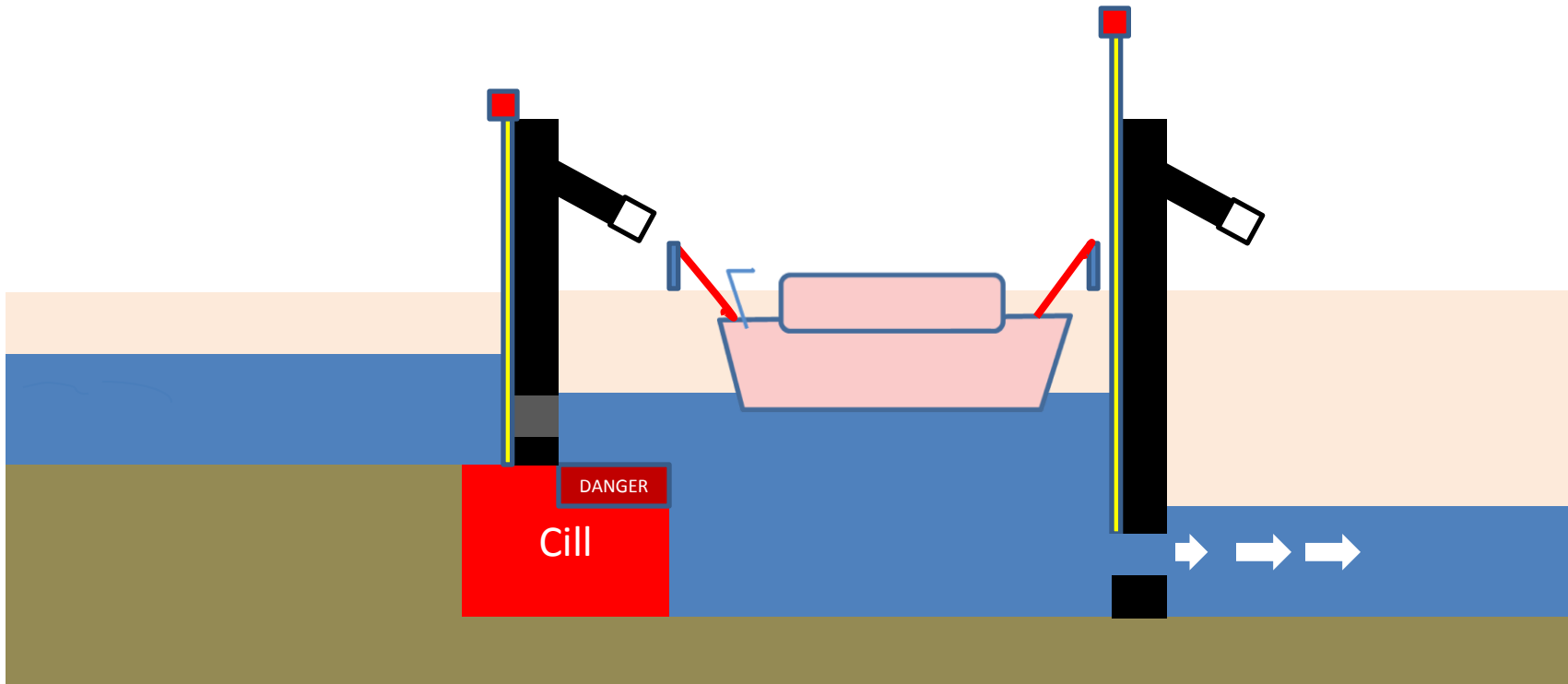
**DON'T** tie a boat up in a lock..



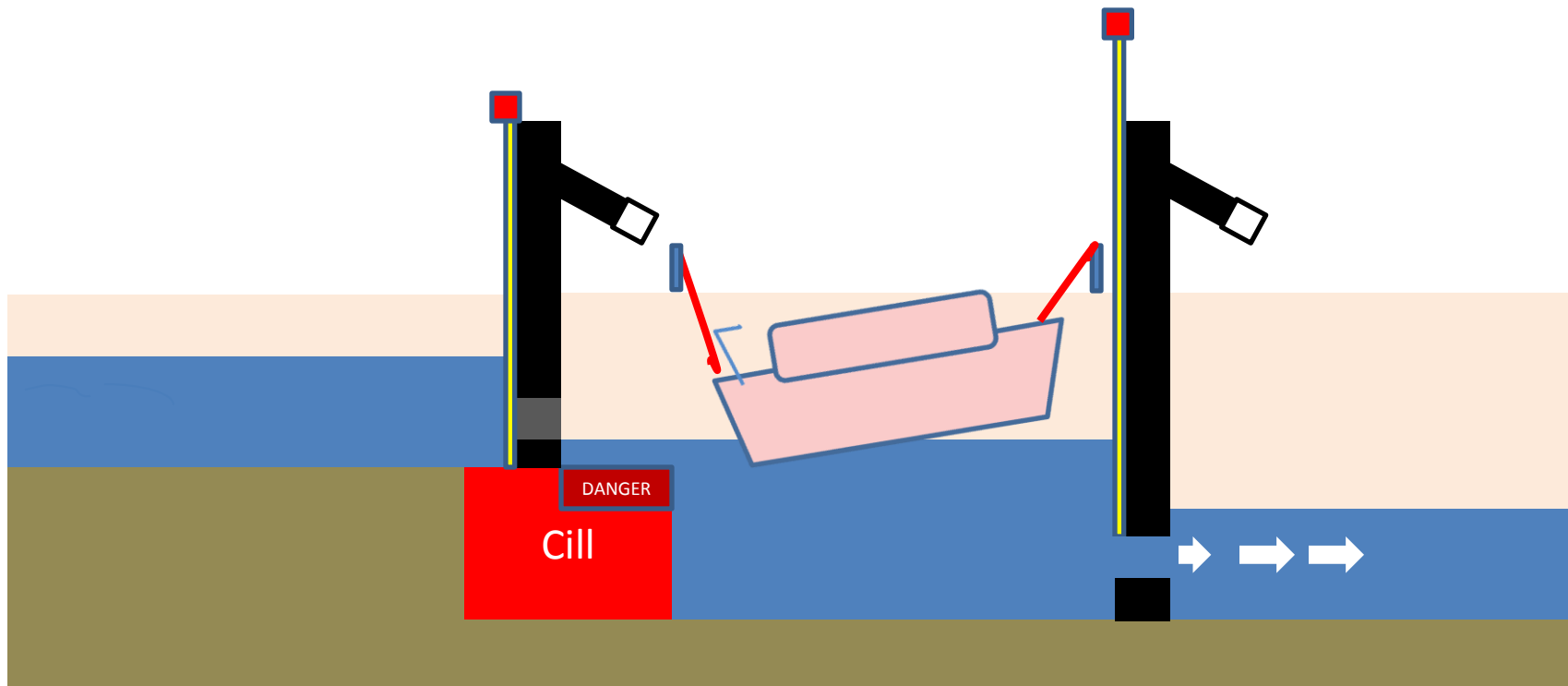
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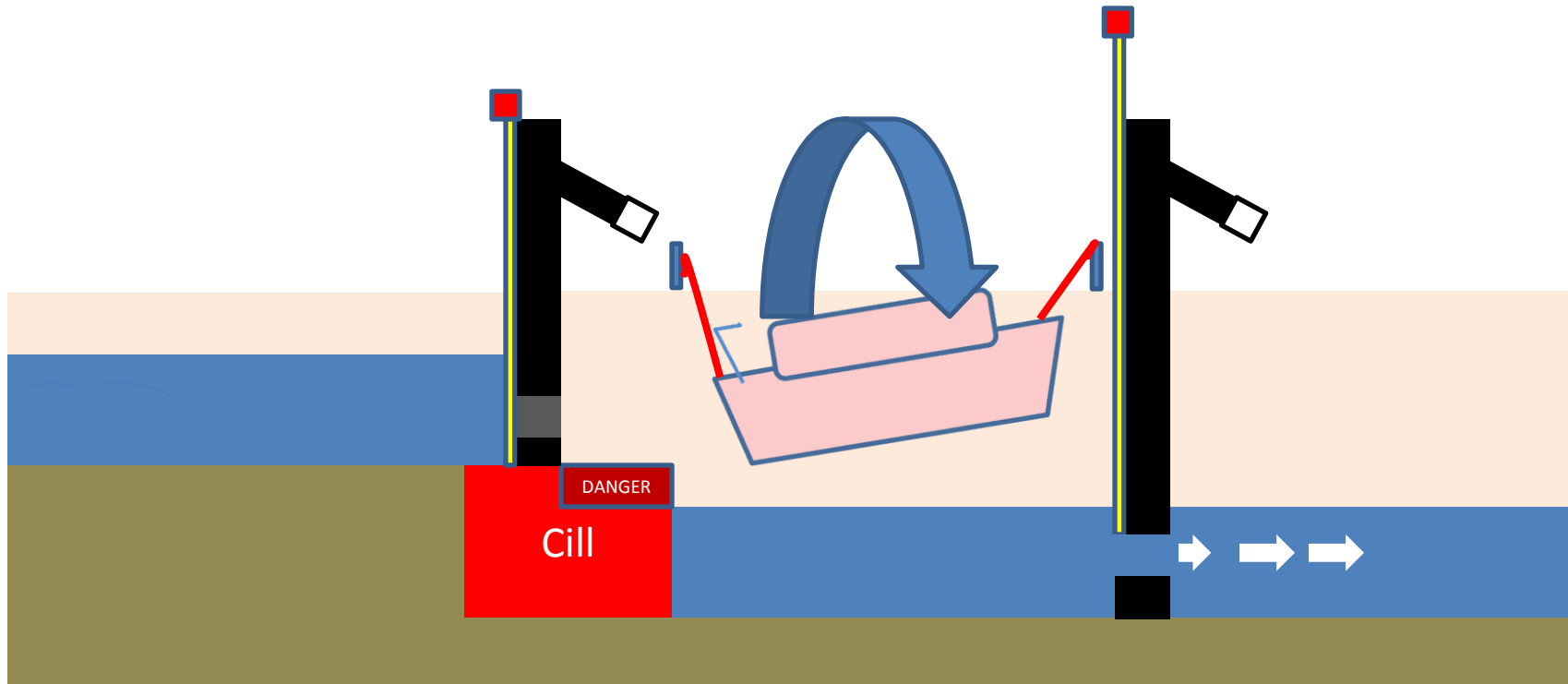
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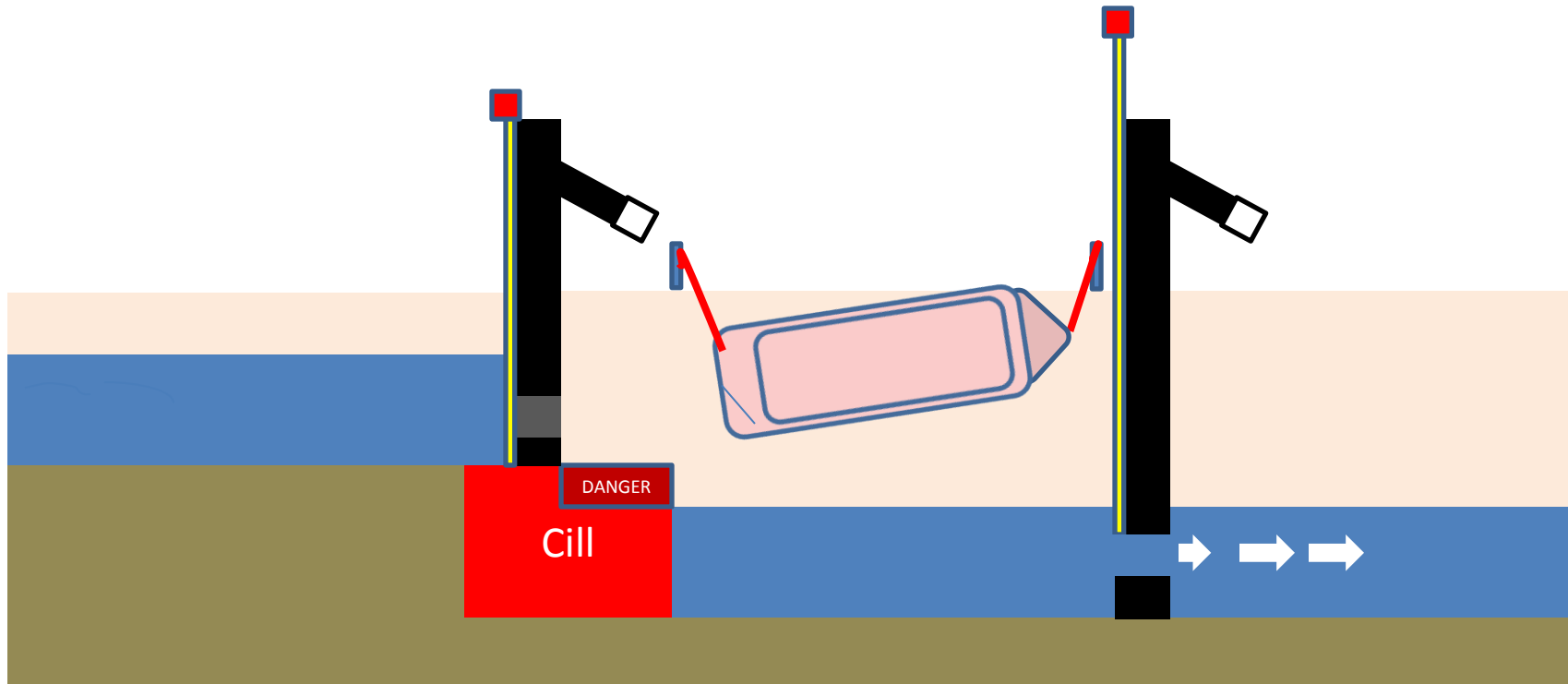
If you tie the boat up, the weight of the boat will trap the rope and the boat will end up hanging from the rope and may tip the boat over as the stern line is secured off centre on the boat.



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# These dangers are easily avoided.

1. Remain vigilant at all times.
2. Walk. Never run around a lock. Hold the hand rails on the lock gate.
3. **Always watch the boat in a lock.**
4. When ascending a lock, only open the ground paddles first and open all paddles partially to let the water in slowly to avoid turbulence.
5. If you see a problem STOP! Do not panic. Stop the water filling the lock, or stop the lock emptying as QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE by **dropping all paddles.**
6. Assess the problem. Calmly get people off the boat if necessary.
7. Address the problem. Move the boat back away from the incoming water jets, or refloat the boat by filling the lock a bit, to move it off the cill or to release snagged ropes and untie the boat, then continue the ascent/descent again as normal.

**Don't worry. Such accidents rarely happen *if a little bit of care is taken.***