

# SKIPPERS ON-WATER EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

## 1. SoPYC Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

- a) Although SoPYC is not equipped to provide extensive emergency response, the South of Perth Yacht Club ERP provides a systematic approach to responding to an incident occurring during an event conducted by the Club.
- b) Do you have the SoPYC On Water Emergency Phone Numbers displayed on board?

## 2. Notification of Incident

- a) When a boat needs emergency assistance, it should use all available means to attract attention.
- b) Do you have flares, marine radio, mobile phone, or other communications on board?
- c) In the event a vessel is seriously damaged rendering it unsafe or unseaworthy and/or a person is seriously injured, have you notified the Department of Transport as required.
- d) Where a yacht requires emergency response, the yacht should use the standard marine emergency call procedures (MAY DAY or PAN PAN).
- e) MAY DAY – only used if a vessel or person is in grave or imminent danger and requires immediate assistance.
- f) PAN PAN – used when a MAY DAY distress call is not fully justified – urgent message concerning the safety of the vessel or person.
- g) If the incident does not warrant a MAY DAY or PAN PAN call, but assistance is required, contact SoPYC Race Control 0412 704 945 or on VHF 69.

## 3. Responsibility of the Skipper

- a) The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.
- b) Are you aware of the Australian Sailing Special Regulations 1.01 and 1.02.
- c) Have you complied with the Racing Rules of Sailing 1.2 – one PFD available for immediate use?
- d) Do you have the latest weather forecast and charts for the area?
- e) Is the vessel well found and adequate for the conditions?
- f) Are the crew appropriately experienced to cope with reasonably anticipated conditions?
- g) Do the event entry rules specify safety requirements?
- h) Is all safety equipment maintained, easily accessible at all times and conforms to appropriate Marine Standards?

## 4. Responsibility of the Crew

- (a) Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal floatation device adequate for the conditions.
- (b) Are the crew members briefed on their individual role on the boat?
- (c) Are the crew familiar with the vessels Person-Overboard procedures?
- (d) Is there at least one other crew member, in addition to the Skipper, capable of handling the vessel in all conditions?

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## 5. Safety Briefing

- (a) A boat shall carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board.
- (b) Has the Skipper provided a safety briefing; where it is stowed, how to use it and when to use it?
- (c) Does someone on board have a Senior First Aid Certificate?
- (d) Have the likely dangers of participating been discussed with the crew?
- (e) What equipment is available for use in the event of a collision between boats or a person-overboard?
- (f) Are all on board familiar with the use of flares, marine radio etc in the event the skipper or usual operator is incapable?

## 6. Intoxication

- (a) Skippers should ensure that the capabilities of all crew and passengers, as well as their own, are not adversely affected by the consumption of alcohol prior to or during any race or cruise. Aside from obvious dangers involved, the Water Police are paying increasing attention to the consumption of alcohol on private vessels and penalties can be severe.
- (b) Is there a policy on your vessel concerning if, when and how alcohol might be consumed?

## 7. Medical Emergency

- (a) For Hypothermia refer to the Advisory Appendix E to Part 1 in the 2017-2020 Australian Sailing Special Regulations.
- (b) If urgent outside assistance is required, a vessel should:
  - i. Transmit a PAN PAN on VHF Ch. 16 or call Triple zero (000)
  - ii. Contact SoPYC Race Control 0412 704 945 or VHF 69
  - iii. What is the nature of the injury or complaint?
  - iv. Is an ambulance required, if so, at what location?

## 8. Person Overboard

- (a) Refer to the Advisory Appendix D in the 2017-2020 Australian Sailing Special Regulations.
- (b) Have the crew carried out a person overboard exercise under all conditions of sailing?
- (c) If the vessel becomes disabled, is unable to retrieve the person overboard and/or loses sight of the person overboard, she should immediately issue an urgency call and make contact with SoPYC Race Control.

## 9. Heavy Weather Sailing

- (a) Refer to the Advisory Appendix F in the in the 2017-2020 Australian Sailing Special Regulations.
- (b) Be aware of the heavy load a sea places on deck fittings.
- (c) Have you considered "heaving-to" (jib aback, main sheeted in tight and rudder steering to windward)?

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## 10. Sea Sickness

- (a) Loss of fluids induces dehydration, encourage water intake in sips.
- (b) Secure and position person in lowest motion part of the vessel (usually the stern), face in the wind, with sight of horizon.
- (c) Avoid alcohol and greasy foods before voyage, consider heaving-to in serious cases.

## 11. Capsize and/or Sinking

- (a) Is anyone injured?
- (b) Use all available means to notify Race Control, another vessel or other responsible persons of the situation.
- (c) Stay with the vessel (unless it sinks out of sight).
- (d) Right the vessel if possible.
- (e) Do everything possible to conserve core body heat.

## 12. Grounding

- (a) Assess damage and potential danger.
- (b) Unless taking on excessive water, make every effort to refloat the vessel before requesting outside assistance.
- (c) The decision to render assistance is at the discretion of those coming to your aid.

## 13. Collision resulting in Severe Damage

- (a) If the vessel is disabled she should immediately issue a PAN PAN call on VHF Ch. 16 or phone Race Control.

## 14. Toxic Spills

- (a) Contact the Department of Transport Oil Pollution Reporting section listed in the Emergency Contacts.

## 15. Fire onboard

- (a) Most important consideration is human life, the boat is secondary.
- (b) Prevention is preferable to fire fighting.
- (c) Correct installation and good house-keeping, regular maintenance and fire prevention is necessary.
- (d) If possible, make a PAN PAN call.
- (e) Was the use and location of a fire blanket and/or extinguisher covered in the safety equipment briefing?