



Emergency Procedures

Abandon Ship

A step by step guide should the worst happen

Introduction

Should the worst happen your crew or family will be looking to you for leadership and guidance

It makes sense, therefore, to think about how you would cope in such a situation

This presentation will give you some pointers to building a plan of what you need to do



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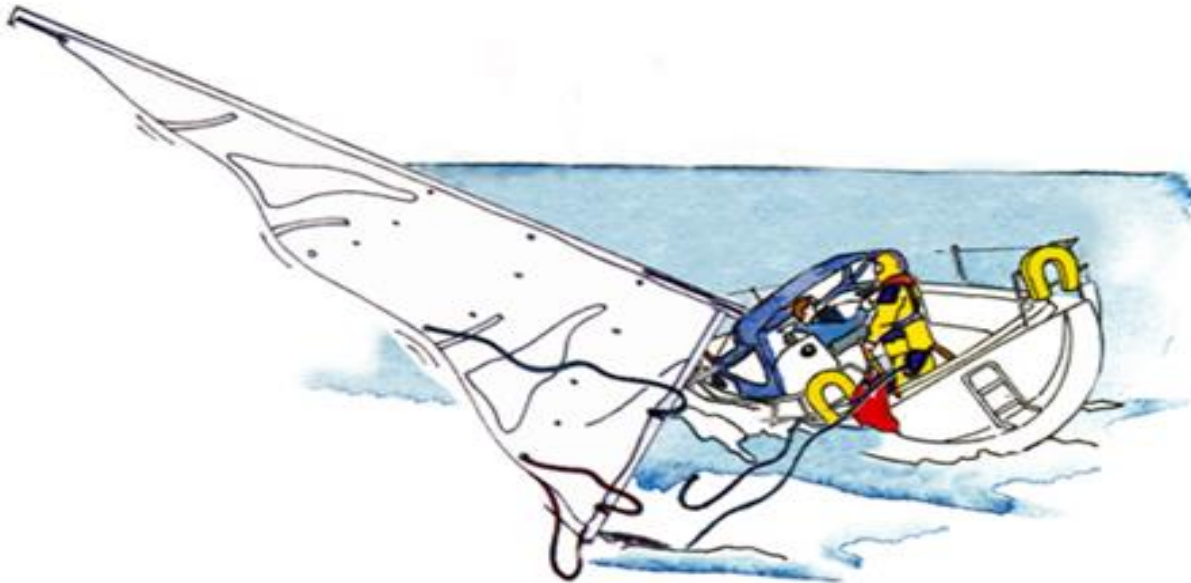
Essential Actions

Boating is generally a safe pastime



Essential Actions

But should the worst happen make sure you and your crew know what to do



Essential Actions



One of the first things to ensure is that everyone is dressed appropriately and wearing a lifejacket

Essential Actions

Then, call the coastguard/authorities to let them know you have a problem

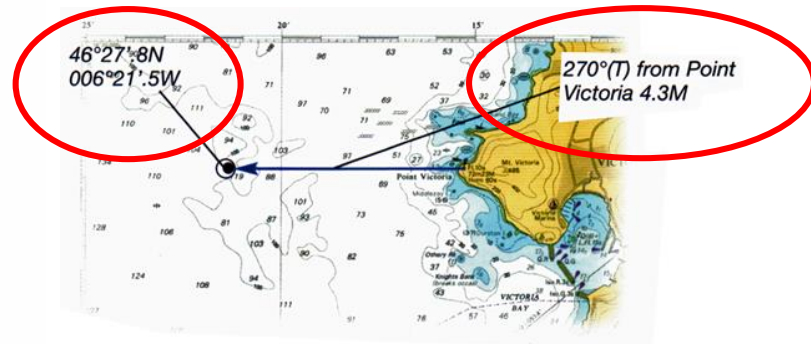


Using the VHF

Use the VHF radio to alert the coastguard and other vessels in your area

Tell them **1. your boat's name**
2. your position

...either by latitude and longitude
...or range and bearing



3. number of people on board
4. what assistance you require

Using the VHF

Most modern sets have digital (DSC) calling

You may not have time to send a voice call but most modern VHF sets can...

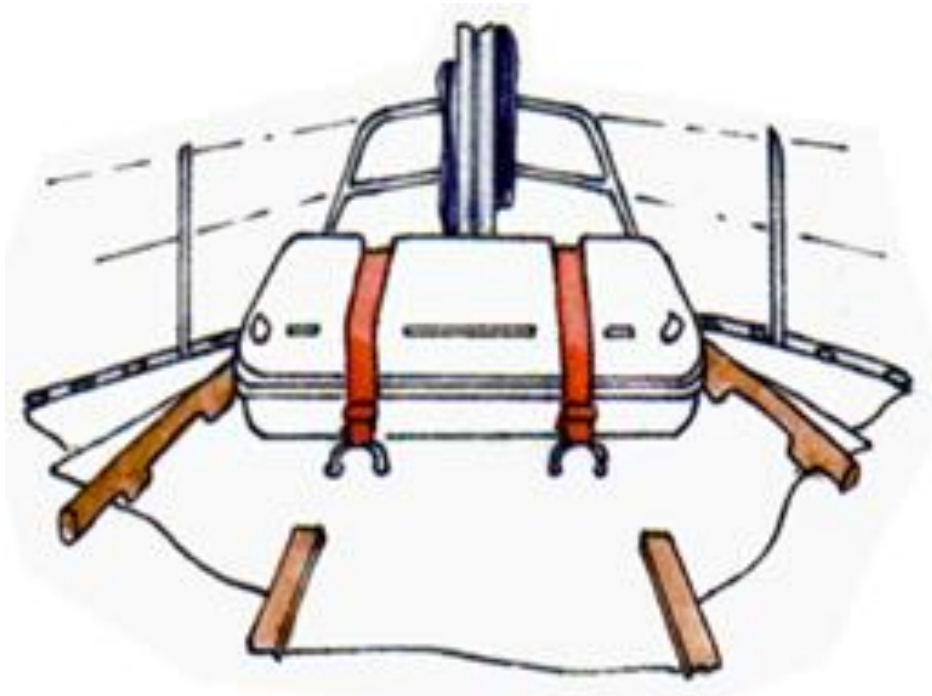


...send a distress alert call at the press of a button

...are linked to a GPS receiver to give your position to other VHF DSC stations

Abandoning to Liferaft

Abandoning to the liferaft should only be considered as a last resort



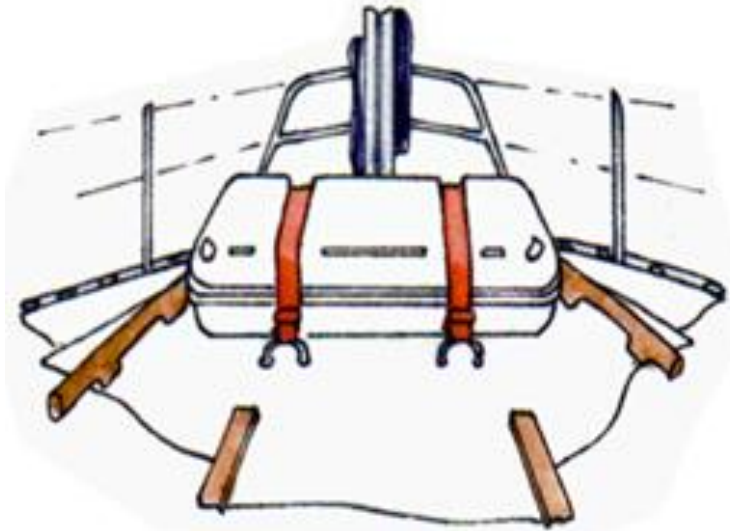
The parent vessel will undoubtedly offer the best protection

Many times in the past people have perished in liferafts, whilst their boats have been later found afloat!

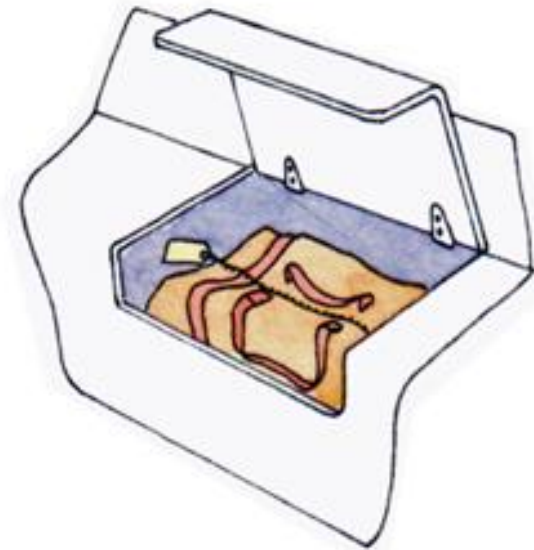
Unless it's actually sinking or there's an uncontrollable fire onboard, the best advice is.....**stay with your boat**

Abandoning to Liferaft

The liferaft should be securely stowed



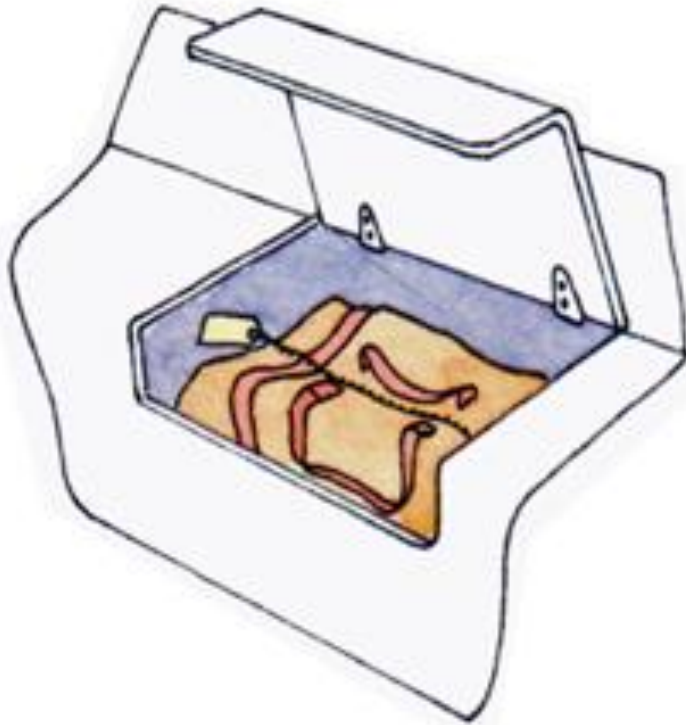
Either deck mounted in a GRP canister, where a hydrostatic release unit (HRU) can be employed



Or in a dedicated locker

Abandoning to Liferaft

If kept in a locker, make sure no other gear is stowed on top of it



You may need to access the liferaft in a hurry

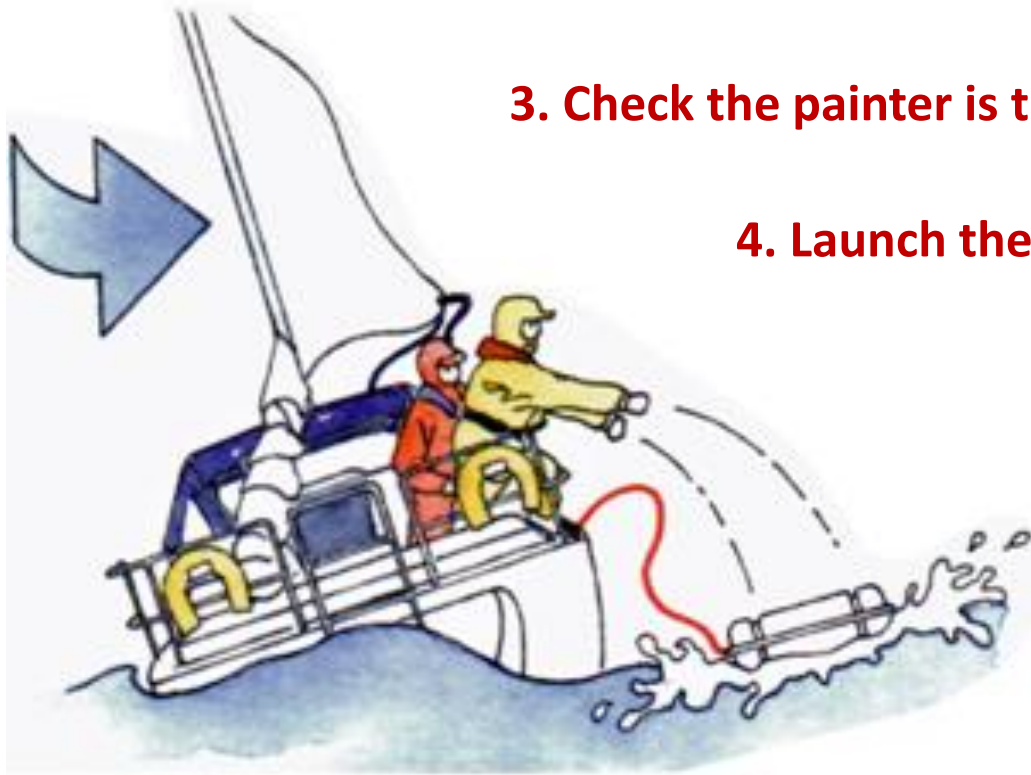
Abandoning to Liferaft

1. Get all the crew ready in their lifejackets

2. Send a Mayday

3. Check the painter is tied on

4. Launch the liferaft on the leeward side



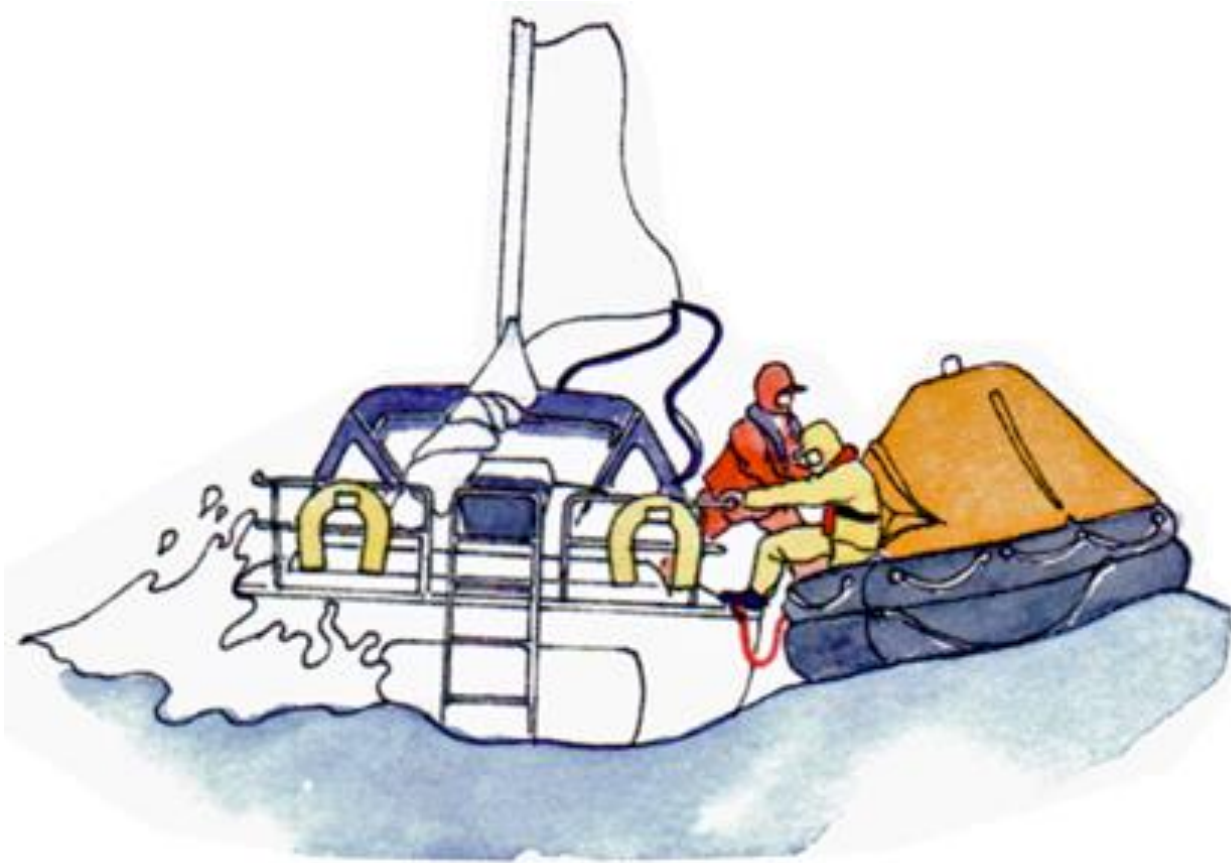
Abandoning to Liferaft

Pull on the painter to inflate the liferaft



Essential Actions

Get a heavy adult into the liferaft first for stability



Essential Actions

Do not jump into the water



Get the crew to climb in, staying dry if possible

Essential Actions

Take extra provisions if you can, for example



Water

Carbohydrate food

First aid kit

Warm clothes

Sleeping bags

If you have one, make sure you bring your **HAND-HELD VHF** with you – it will be invaluable for your successful rescue

Essential Actions

Cut the painter and stream the drogue to increase the stability and reduce drift



Post a look-out

Bale out any water, take anti-seasickness tablets

Summary

Only abandon your vessel if it is going to sink in the immediate future or has an uncontrollable fire

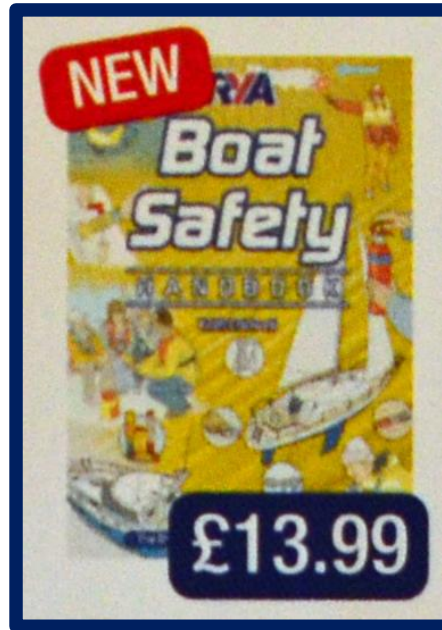
Call the emergency services using the VHF

Ensure everyone is wearing a lifejacket

Take a hand-held VHF radio with you into the liferaft

If your vessel does not have a liferaft (most coastal cruisers don't) work out a plan to use your tender as one beforehand

Further Reading



We highly recommend
RYA Boat Safety Handbook (G103)

You can buy a copy of this book by visiting our on-line shop at
www.penguinsailing.com