

ON the morning of November 23rd at 0341, FN [REDACTED] contacted me and let me know that Sector SENE had a case for us. I contacted Sector SENE and spoke to [REDACTED], he informed me that there was a F/V Emmy Rose that their EPIRB went off and possibly sank. They wanted us to get on scene and assist the CGC Vigorous until the CGC Key Largo got on scene. BM3 [REDACTED], FN [REDACTED] and I got underway on 47243 at 0425 and made our way to the position that Sector SENE passed to us. It took almost 3 hours to get on scene, once we arrived at the position, I knew it was the right location due to the strong smell of diesel fuel in the air and the sheen on the water. We contacted the Vigorous and they tasked us to go pick up the life raft, they passed the position and we made our way there scanning the sea for any signs. On our way to the life raft we saw a yellow shovel and some paper plates floating in the water. I noticed the life raft and told the crew where it was, we made our way over there and noticed there were two lines coming off the raft. I had to make a bow into the wind approach so I did not get any lines tangled in the props. We were making recovery of the raft in approximately 8 to 10 foot seas. We tried to pull the raft on board but BM3 and the FN could not get it, so I rushed down and tried to assist, it failed and I tied the raft to our aft bitts, told BM3 and FN to get the knife out and we have to pop it. They popped it and pulled it into the recovery well and took a break because it was heavy. When we pulled it out of the water I noticed there was some survival gear in it that was packed in it from the factory, there were no signs of anyone putting anything into the raft after it inflated. After recovering the raft we contacted the CGC Vigorous and they attempted to pass a search pattern that we would not be able to plot out in 8 to 10 foot seas. CGC Vigorous then contacted D1 CC to get us released because we could not be very effective on scene, with our total time underway rapidly depleting for our endurance time on scene. Vigorous then received word that the 47243 was released from the scene and was to RTB. After RTB and moored at station, [REDACTED] called and asked a few questions about the raft, I answered them and made arrangements to store the raft until he made arrangements to retrieve the raft.

The above is the statement of BM1 [REDACTED]