

SMS-13-12
Fires Onboard**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the steps to take in the event of a fire onboard a vessel.

RESPONSIBILITY

- The Safety Manager owns this procedure and stewards its effectiveness to management.
- The Vessel Master is responsible for ensuring crewmembers adhere to this procedure.
- Crewmembers are responsible for adhering to this procedure.

TRAINING-DRILLS

- Initial training shall take place in Deckhand Training Course and new hire orientation.
- Monthly refresher training shall take place through Fire Drills.

PROCEDURE

1. Crewmembers that discover a fire shall notify the Wheelman on watch of fire and location.
2. Wheelman on watch:
 - a. Sound General alarm (continuous ringing of no less than 10 seconds supplemented by sounding of the whistle for a period of no less than 10 seconds)
 - b. Announce "**FIRE**", location, and class of fire over PA.
 - c. Retrieve life jacket.
 - d. Assess the degree of emergency to determine if the fire can be safely extinguished by crew.
 - e. Maneuver the vessel if possible upwind to take the flames and the smoke away from the vessel.
 - f. Maneuver the vessel to a safe location if possible.
 - g. Command all operations.
3. Wheelman off watch:
 - a. Report to the Pilothouse with life jacket.
 - b. Assist the Wheelman on watch.
 - c. Take over command if necessary.
4. Crewmember on watch:
 - a. Report to Muster Station with life jacket and VHF radio.
 - b. Establish communication with Wheelman on watch.
 - c. Lead the Emergency Team.
 - d. Extinguish fire if possible.
 - e. Man fire station.
5. Crewmember off watch:
 - a. Respond to General Alarm.
 - b. Report to Muster Station with life jacket.
 - c. Assist Emergency Team leader.
 - d. Assume Emergency Team lead if necessary.
6. Visitor:
 - a. Report to pilothouse with life jacket.
 - b. Stand by for instruction.

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7. Secure ventilation and power to affected fire area.
8. Utilize the proper extinguishing agent for the class of fire.
9. 2 crewmembers should be used to fight a fire.
10. At least 1 crewmember shall remain at the site of the fire with proper extinguishing equipment on watch for re-flash.
11. If water is used to extinguish a fire, you shall initiate steps for de-watering by any means possible.

Wheelman makes appropriate calls to Coast Guard, VTS, any traffic in the area and office.

When calling office state “**I HAVE A VESSEL EMERGENCY! PLEASE ASK THE PORT CAPTAIN ON CALL TO CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY” THIS IS THE MOTOR VESSEL** (state the name of your vessel and give your contact number). Follow steps as outlined in [SMS-10-01 Incident/Accident Reporting](#) .

REFERENCES

Station Bill

[SMS-10-01 Incident/Accident Reporting](#)

[SMS-13-01 Emergency Preparedness & Response](#)

FORMS

SAF-005 Drills Form