**Distressed Vessel Assistance and Rescue**

Upon hearing a mayday, if no Coast Guard or other vessel response after 4-5 minutes, become “mayday relay”.

VHF is set to channel 16.

Record distressed vessel information.

Activate the transmission button on VHF radio.

Received Mayday

Over

Release the VHF transmit button and wait for an acknowledgement.

Activate the transmission button on VHF radio.

Mayday Relay, Mayday Relay, Mayday Relay

This is Confetti

Mayday (name of vessel in distress)

At position (Iat & long or true bearing and distance from a charted feature)

Nature of distress is (i.e. taking on water, fire, medical)

\_\_\_ people on board, with \_\_\_\_ injuries

Lifesaving equipment includes (i.e. life raft, life preservers, EPIRB)

Other VITAL information

Time (received or sighted)

MMSI (of vessel in distress)

Over

Release the VHF transmit button and wait for an acknowledgement.

Over = means waiting for a response

Out = conversation is completed

Determine if able to assist.

Brief and assign tasks to crew.

**Distressed Vessel Assistance and Rescue**

Long instructions

Have available:

* VHF radio
* Camera
* Binoculars

Awareness

* VHF radio set to channel 16 at an audible level
  + May day
  + Panic
* Flares
* Something amiss with vessel (i.e. sails in water, smoke)
* Vessel not under control (i.e. drifting towards something)

Detection

* Respond if Coast Guard or other vessel does not respond
  + Wait 4 minutes after distress signal was sent
  + If no Coast Guard respond, become the “mayday relay”
* Determine if suitable to take action
  + Calculate distance
  + Calculate time to get there
  + Suitability of your vessel
  + Weather conditions do not create hazards for your crew
  + Crew experience
* If taking action
  + Eliminate distractions
    - Turn on engines
    - Take down sails (or have prepared before approach)
  + Brief crew and assign tasks
    - Visual lookout
    - Communication officer (i.e. radio watch)
    - Means to safely approach
    - Means to transfer people to your vessel
  + Determine safe approach (i.e. heave-to approach)
    - How does other vessel track in the water and match it
    - Look for hazards in the water
      * Mast
      * Sails
      * Lines
    - Avoid entanglement
      * Does vessel have any control?
        + Rudder capability
        + Engine can run
      * What makes vessel uncontrollable
        + Sails are up
        + Snagged on another movable object
  + Transfer crew
    - Tend the line (i.e. manually control movement and length, not fixed)
      * You need flexibility
      * Being connected to distressed vessel can create hazard for your vessel
    - Use fender and dinghy
  + Assistance
    - Shelter
    - Man overboard
    - Medical
    - Skills (i.e. repairs)
    - Spare parts
    - Fuel / water
    - Provide crew members
    - Support / confidence builder

Mayday relay is used when distressed vessel may only have handheld VHF functional (i.e. short distance communication).

Advantage of approaching vessel from upwind is that lines can be floated downwind to the distressed vessel.

Large container vessel transfer

* Never secure craft to the rescue vessel
* Use Inflatable life boat
* Use Inflatable life raft
* Most often approaches from upwind
* Pull in any deployed sea anchors
* Rescue swimmer
* If raft will be lifted with survivors
  + Fully inflated
* Use safety line is going up a ladder
* Safest way up is being hoisted with a sling

**Distressed Vessel Documentation**

Distressed Vessel Information

* Latitude
* Latitude
* Vessel name
* Number of people on board
* Number of people with injuries
* Vessel conditions
  + Fire
  + Taking on water (and at what rate)
  + Hazards in approaching area
    - (i.e. other sunken vessel, shoals, rocks, floating debris, fuel, flames)
* Vessel description
  + Length
  + Hull material
  + Monohull, catamaran, trimaran
  + Sail, motor
  + Colors, symbols
* Life saving equipment on board
  + Life raft
  + EPIRB
  + Life preservers / PFD
* Time
* MMSI
* What happened

Your Vessel

Take a picture of chartplotter.

* Latitude
* Longitude

Date

Reason why did not respond

* Too far away, other can reach sooner
* Coast Guard / closer vessel was responding
* Condition of your boat is not suitable