Man Overboard Drill

F/V ________________________________

Date: _______________  Time: _______________
Location: ________________________________

Scenario
While hauling gear during sloppy weather, a deck hand is washed overboard by a large wave or falls overboard while dipping a 5-gallon bucket over the side. The crewmember is wearing a flotation suit equipped with a light and whistle. Other boats are visible in the area.

Before Drill
Is the crew familiar with the vessel’s person overboard recovery plan, including:

- Yes  No
  - How the skipper plans to pull a person back on board.
  - What equipment is required.
  - Skipper’s requirements for wearing flotation while on deck.
  - Rules for being on deck in rough weather or at night.

Setting Up the Drill
This drill is best run while underway with no gear in the water, and with the person overboard represented by an inflated buoy with a personal marker light attached.

Initiating the Drill
The drill leader chooses a “victim” and informs that crewmember about the overboard incident. The drill leader then throws a buoy overboard and advises another crewmember of the person overboard. The “victim” does not participate in the drill directly, but observes the crew’s reactions to the scenario and helps keep track of the following critical points. This nonparticipant can also be your safety backup.

Critical Points to Look for During Drill
1. Alarms/Communication

- Yes  No
  - Does person discovering the emergency initiate the alarm?
  - Does person discovering the emergency tell the wheelhouse which side of the vessel the victim fell from?
  - Does person on watch alert all crewmembers? How?
  - Are Coast Guard and other vessels made aware of the problem?
  - Does entire crew recognize the Man Overboard signal?
  - How soon is entire crew aware of the emergency?
  - Are any crewmembers unaware of the emergency due to an inoperative signal or lack of communication?
  - Is communication to the wheelhouse sufficient to bring the vessel to the victim?
  - Does crew communicate with each other?
  - Is simulated distress signal called off after the victim is rescued?
2. **Response**

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- Do crewmembers react in accordance with their Emergency Assignments?
- Do crewmembers readily do unassigned, but needed jobs (cross-training)?
- Does crew work together as a team?
- Do crewmembers anticipate or react to events?
- Does person discovering the emergency throw a marker?
- Does person discovering the emergency continually keep the victim in sight and point?
- Does person on watch use electronic position fixing devices to mark the position of the person overboard?
- Does person on watch initiate a proper maneuver?
- How long does it take to rig the recovery device?
- Is crew in place, including a rescue swimmer in an immersion suit with a safety line, by the time the vessel is back alongside the victim?
- Is recovery device and vessel’s hauling equipment used effectively?
- Do any crewmembers endanger themselves by leaning perilously over the side to recover the victim?
- Does crew recognize hypothermia and know appropriate treatment for the victim?
- Is medical help sought for treatment of hypothermia, if needed?
- Is crew aware of considerations in recovering survival craft?

**Notes:**

**Drill Conductor:** ________________________________

**Signature:** ________________________________

**Date:** ________________________________

**Instructions:** Mark the "Yes" or "No" check box next to each question in response to your observations of the crew’s performance during the drill. Strike through or mark "N/A" any question that is not applicable to your vessel. Record any other observations in the notes section. You may also want to record the names of crewmembers that participated in the drill.

Use the recorded observations in your debrief of the drill with the crew. Retain this record to document the crew’s performance over time.