

UNINTENTIONAL FLOODING, ROUGH WEATHER AT SEA, AND CROSSING HAZARDOUS BARS

Signal: 1 long continuous blast not less than 10 seconds.

1.
 - a. **If unintentional flooding: notify pilothouse immediately to sound alarm & call Mayday.**
 - b. If rough weather at sea or crossing a hazardous bar is anticipated, notify the entire crew.
2. Close all watertight and weather-tight doors, hatches, ports, and air vents to **prevent taking water aboard or further flooding** in vessel.
3. Keep bilges dry to **prevent loss of stability due to water** in bilges. Use power driven bilge pumps, hand pumps, fire pumps and buckets to **dewater**.
4. **Check all intake and discharge lines that penetrate the hull for leakage.** All crewmembers should know the location and operation of all through-hull lines.
5. On a small vessel, crew should keep their collective weight evenly distributed.
6. Personnel should **don immersion suits/PFDs** if the going becomes very rough, the vessel is about to cross a hazardous bar, or **when** otherwise **instructed by the master** or individual in charge of the vessel.

WARNING

If immersion suits/PFDs are worn inside the vessel, their buoyancy may hamper escape during a sudden capsizing.