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.