Vessel Fire Drill

F/V _____

Date: _____   Time: _____

Location: _____

Scenario

A fire is caused by a faulty diesel stove, clothing placed too close to an electrical heater, frayed insulation on electrical wiring against a bulkhead, an oversized light bulb in a bunk light, or other appropriate cause.

Setting Up the Drill

This drill is best run while underway, at the beginning of a trip, and with no gear in the water. Fire can be simulated by strobe lights or a red rag. Tape can be used to block off passages due to "smoke." This drill can easily evolve into an abandon ship drill.

Initiating the Drill

Tell a crewmember that there is smoke and/or flames coming out of the stove/state room/bulkhead. When the crewmember is clear on how to correctly report the fire, the drill begins. Keep the drill moving by telling the crew how effectively they are controlling the fire as the drill proceeds. The fire can spread or be extinguished, depending on their efforts.

Critical Points to Look for During Drill

1. Alarms/Communication

Yes	No	
☐	☐	Does person discovering the fire immediately sound the alarm?
☐	☐	Does person on watch alert all crewmembers? How?
☐	☐	Are Coast Guard and other vessels made aware of the problem?
☐	☐	Does entire crew recognize the fire 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?
☐	☐	Does crew report information such as fire source and size, smoke smell and density, and number of persons involved?
☐	☐	Is communication to the wheelhouse sufficient to allow operator to maneuver vessel to minimize the effect of wind on the fire?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers account for others?
☐	☐	Is simulated distress signal called off once fire is under control?

2.   Response

Yes	No	
☐	☐	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 operator maneuver the vessel to minimize effect of wind on the fire?

Yes	No	
☐	☐	Is operator safely able to leave the wheel, if necessary, to inspect the affected area?
☐	☐	If help is not available, does operator close doors and seal openings to isolate the fire?
☐	☐	Are areas near the fire that are vented or have operating machinery or fans closed or secured?
☐	☐	Are electricity and fuel sources to the affected space secured?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers go around, rather than pass through, smoke-filled spaces when evacuating the affected area?
☐	☐	When evacuating affected areas, do crewmembers remove portable extinguishers, immersion suits and other survival equipment, and hazardous items?
☐	☐	If an installed fire suppression system is used, is it only activated on word from the skipper, and only after vents, doors, and hatches are secured and all persons evacuated?
☐	☐	Do fire fighters don Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (if the vessel is so equipped) or fight fire by staying low?
☐	☐	Are fire fighters always backed up?
☐	☐	Is an appropriate extinguishing agent used?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers act as if they are familiar with extinguisher advantages, disadvantages, and range?
☐	☐	Is fire or deck hose brought to the scene and pumps placed in line?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers act as if they are aware of the hazards of toxic smoke and gases?
☐	☐	Are fire boundaries checked periodically to prevent the fire from spreading?
☐	☐	If the fire is not controlled, are initial preparations made to abandon ship?
☐	☐	If water is used to control the fire, are provisions made to dewater the vessel?
☐	☐	How is it determined that the fire has been extinguished?
☐	☐	Once the fire is out, is a re-flash watch set and the affected areas overhauled?
☐	☐	Could fire-fighting equipment and alarms be more effectively located?
☐	☐	Were fire hazards noted that could be eliminated?

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 obserations 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.