Distress Broadcasts:

- Make sure communications equipment is on.
- Select 156.8 MHz (VHF channel 16), 2182 kHz or other distress frequency used in your area of operation. Note VHF channel 16 and 2182 kHz are for emergency and calling purposes only.
- Press microphone button. Speak slowly, clearly and calmly say:

**MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**

This is the F/V ____________ F/V ____________ F/V ____________
Call sign ____________, over.

- Release microphone button briefly and listen for acknowledgement.
  - If no one answers, say:
  **MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**
  This is the F/V ____________ F/V ____________ F/V ____________
  Call sign ____________, over.

- My position is ____________. (Use latitude/longitude, nearby landmarks, distance from known points, LORAN readings, etc.) Repeat three times.

- I am ____________ (Sinking, on fire, MOB, listing, etc.)

- I estimate that I can stay afloat ____________ Hours/minutes.
- I have ____________ persons on board.

- My vessel is a _____ type of vessel, _____ feet long, has a _____
  Color hull with ____________ color trim, and ________ masts.

- I will be listening on channel ____________
  This is the F/V ____________, call sign ____________.

- If situation permits, stand by the radio to await further communications with the Coast Guard or another vessel.
- If no answer and situation permits, try another channel and repeat.

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Emergency Station Assignments or:

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**Fire**

(Signal: 1 long continuous blast not less than 10 seconds)

1. Notify pilothouse immediately to sound general alarm & Mayday call.
2. Stop air supply to fire: close hatches, ports, doors, vents, etc.
3. De-energize electrical systems supplying the affected space, if possible.
4. Assemble portable firefighting equipment.
5. Account for personnel and begin to fight fire. Do not use water on electrical fires.
6. If fire is in machinery space, shut off fuel supply and use fixed extinguishing system if appropriate.
7. Maneuver vessel to minimize effect of wind on fire.
8. Move survival gear that could be damaged by fire.
9. Check adjoining spaces to prevent spread of fire.
10. Once fire is extinguished, begin dewatering to avoid stability problems.
11. If unable to control fire, notify Coast Guard and nearby vessels. Prepare to abandon ship.
Abandon Ship

(Signal: At least 7 short blasts followed by 1 long blast)

1. Preparations should include the following as time and circumstances permit:
   a. General Alarm & Mayday.
   b. All personnel don immersion suits/PFD’s and warm clothing.
   c. Prepare to launch life raft, attach sea painter to vessel above weak link.
   d. Get abandon ship kit including signals (EPIRB, flares, smokes, flashlights, handheld radios, etc.), first aid kit, water and food.
   e. Gather other useful items.
2. Meet at embarkation station.
3. When sinking is imminent or remaining on board is inappropriate, close water tight openings and:
   a. Launch and board life raft.
   b. Keep sea painter attached to vessel but be prepared to cut sea painter

Pocket Drill Guide

1. Abandoning vessel
   Recognition – Mayday, general Alarm
   Inventory- Mental
   Shelter-Don Survival Suits & Prepare to launch life raft.
   Signals-EPIRB, handheld VHF, Pyro, mirror, signal kit.
   Water, food, play
2. Fighting a Fire.
3. Person Overboard
4. Unintentional Flooding
5. Launching Survival Craft & Recovering Rescue Boat
6. Donning Immersion Suits & PFD’s
7. Donning Firefighting Outfit & SCBA
8. Mayday 7 Using Distress Signals
9. Activating General Alarm

Always Debrief Drills!

Person Overboard

(Signal: 3 long blasts repeated at least 4 times)

1. Throw a ring lifebuoy or flotation as close to the individual as possible.
2. Post a lookout to keep the individual in the water in sight and communicate the distress and position to the pilothouse/
3. Pilothouse, watch to sound alarm and maneuver as necessary.
4. Launch a rescue boat or platform to recover the individual if appropriate.
5. Have a crew member put on a Immersion suit or PFD, attach a safety line to the crew member and have a crew member stand by to enter the water to assist in a recovery if appropriate.
6. If individual overboard is not immediately located, notify the coast Guard and other vessels in the vicinity; and continue searching until released by the Coast Guard.

Unintentional Flooding

(Signal: 1 long continuous blast not less than 10 seconds)

1. Notify pilothouse immediately to sound general alarm & make Mayday call.
2. Close all watertight and weather tight doors, hatches, ports and air vents to prevent taking on water aboard of further flooding in the vessel. (leave scupper or freeing ports open to drain excess water which will cause the vessel un-stability)
3. Keep bilges dry to prevent loss of stability due to water in bilges. Use power driven pumps, hand pumps, fire pumps, and buckets to dewater. Plug any holes leaking water.
4. Check all intake and discharge lines that penetrate the hull for leakage. All crewmembers should know the location and operation procedures for the vessel’s pumping system.
5. If on small vessel, crew should remain evenly distributed.
6. Personnel should plan to abandon ship if necessary.