

RESCUE OF REFUGEES AT SEA

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	ACTION (NOT NECESSARILY IN ORDER)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sound the general alarm and Muster crew
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact the nearest and/or responsible Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC)/Coast guard and, if needed, nearby ships who may be able to assist you
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarify whether the MRCC has any guidelines for the rescue operation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain Constant Contact with the Maritime Authority/Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform company (company will contact P&I Club for further advice)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Without delay assess the means and approach to providing safe assistance and rescue, and whether it is appropriate to standby and await authorities without risk to life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discuss with company and establish approach plan and embarkation plan for the rescue prior to its commencement. This plan should also include any safety and/or security issues (Complete lock down of stores , restricted areas etc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform relevant parties (flag state, company appointed Media services, owner, charterers, agents etc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure all operational hazards are identified and control measures are established in order to perform the rescue operation safely
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assess the safety of the crew and passengers should persons brought on board become aggressive or violent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider whether the vessel has sufficient food and provisions on board for the crew and refugees, as well as medical equipment should it be needed. If not, steps should be taken immediately to rectify the situation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference to be made to IAMSAR Vol III and ship specific "Plan for recovery of persons from water" while picking up refugees
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify the ship's equipment and life-saving appliances that may be appropriate for the rescue operation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine if any special arrangements, additional equipment or assistance may be required for the rescue operation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Execute rescue plan – focus on crew safety including appropriate PPE and good communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calm down the refugees. Safely embark rescued people. Provide life vests, water/nutrition if possible.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure embarkation is carefully controlled.(This process will be determined by the capacity of rescue boats, lifeboats and other embarkation methods)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Control items brought on board (priority human lives).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Count the number of people on board, noting children and medical cases.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Search each refugee/migrant for any weapons or dangerous objects confiscated.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish whether one of the refugees is able to communicate in a commonly understood language. Appoint one of the refugees to manage the group and be their spokesperson.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain as much personal data from each individual as possible . Make a refugee list with name , Nationality age and gender.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide sufficient accommodation on board. Set aside a protected area for the refugees to stay, including blankets and beds.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Segregate women/children and any obviously sick or injured persons and allow for family groups to remain together.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Show cultural and gender sensitivity. Identify and assist the most vulnerable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure safety and supervision of children. Some may travel unaccompanied.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide for the basic human needs of the refugees (food, water, shelter or medical needs) within the capabilities and limitations of the ship.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treat refugees with humanity, within the capabilities of the ship.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish whether any member of the refugees needs immediate medical assistance. Seek medical advice from ashore if necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain sanitary conditions to protect the health of rescued persons and the crew.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider using gloves and other personal protection equipment to avoid the potential spread of disease or sickness onboard the vessel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish trust through good communication with the people embarked. Assure the refugees that they are safe and will not be returned to shore.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enforce strictly any policies relevant to the safety of the ship and the crew, for example 'no smoking'.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish watch routines for monitoring security. Limit access to the ship and contain embarked personnel within the intended accommodation or other designated areas. Remain vigilant to potential conflict between rescued persons.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep refugees on deck in a 24/7 controlled environment. Wear uniforms, display authority.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If handling dead bodies, treat them properly and respectfully. Keep bodies in body bags, separate from refugees and crew. The Use of a cleared Freezer may need to be considered.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Control the taking and sharing of pictures of the rescue operation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish actions to be taken in the event that a fight or dispute arises between the rescued persons
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage potential conflict by the use of appropriate accommodation and segregation wherever practical
<input type="checkbox"/>	If possible, inform the survivors of your intentions and their arrival at a place of safety where the rescue operation are considered to terminate on shore

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Inform the RCC responsible for the region of the conditions onboard, assistance needed and actions taken or planned for the disembarkation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the ship, flag and port of registry • Name and address of the owner , operator and agent at the next port • Position of the vessel, maximum speed , next intended port of call, continuing safety and current status with additional persons onboard • Number of vessels , number of refugees onboard, name, age (if possible), gender • Apparent health, medical condition and special medical needs • Actions completed or intended to be taken by the Master • Master's preferred arrangement and location for disembarking the persons rescued • Any help needed by the assisting ship (i.e. due to limitations and characteristics of the ship's equipment, available manpower, stocks of supplies, etc) • Any other factors (e.g. safety of navigation , prevailing weather, time sensitive cargo, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare plan for disembarkation based on the particular circumstances of the rescue and the planned voyage of the ship
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform the Company's agent and the correspondent in the port of disembarkation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comply with any requirements of the Government responsible for the SAR region where the survivors were recovered, and seek additional guidance from those authorities where difficulties arise in complying with such requirements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disembark refugees safely
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean and disinfect areas of the ship used for accommodation, sanitary provisions and medical care
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for stowaways immediately after the transfer/disembarkation of rescued persons
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand over any remaining ID papers / belongings to the authorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose off used PPE and any contaminated waste appropriately
<input type="checkbox"/>	Account kept covering all direct expenses and possible off hire due to the refugees, possible deviation, etc. Full report should be forwarded to the company
	RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain Careful Log Entries, written records together with video and photographic documentation of Incident.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All the events are recorded in chronological order in Bridge movement book.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Main events with timings recorded in Official log book and Deck log book GMDSS related communications recorded in Radio Log and VHF log.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charterers and owners informed as per voyage orders and C/P.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Document the embarkation process to create a statement of facts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deviation statement with distance and fuel consumed recorded accurately to ensure that vessel does not face disputes or claims from charterers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	MRCC log / form duly filled up and submitted where required.

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CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR LARGE SCALE RESCUE OPERATION AT SEA

Master has an obligation to assist persons in distress at sea, regardless of their nationality, status or the circumstances in which they are found as per International Maritime Law.

The sole responsibility of the Master and the crew is to maintain the safety and, as far as practicable, ensure the humane treatment of rescued people, and co-operate in their disembarkation at a place of safety.

Refer IAMSAR Vol III and ship specific "Plan for recovery of persons from water" while picking up refugees.

In order to ensure adequate support during rescues and also the prompt and predictable disembarkation of rescued persons at a place of safety, ongoing communication with the RCC responsible for the SAR region is essential.

The nature of the distress and the immediate circumstances will determine the response required. Having considered the circumstances, and in consultation with the RCC, a decision should be taken as to whether to embark those from the vessel in distress or to stand by the vessel while it continues its passage, or until other assisting vessels or SAR services are available.

Prior to commencing and during any rescue operations, the safe navigation of the ship should be considered and other vessels in the area advised.

The safety of the ship's own crew should remain the primary concern of the Master. This principle should never be compromised in any attempt to rescue people, nor later while rescued persons remain on board nor during their disembarkation.

Provisions and Equipment

Consideration is to be given to provisions and equipment for support when vessel is to trade in the region where vessel may involve in large scale rescue operation.

A request for additional supplies will be determined by the particular circumstances prevailing but might include:

General:

- Food pre-packed and drinking water; disposable plates/cups
- Plastic sheeting;
- First aid and medical supplies;
- Chlorine based cleaning products and equipment.

PPE:

- Blankets to protect from cold;
- Anti-bacterial gel/sanitiser in individual packages, and dispensers;
- Fluid-resistant, impermeable long sleeve coveralls or coats with long sleeves;
- Gloves (both cotton/fabric and latex or nitrile);
- Respiratory protection; and
- Eye protection.

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Embarkation of Rescued Persons

Embarkation, which should take place one at a time through a single entry point, will provide an appropriate opportunity to establish control. This might include:

- A search of individual and luggage particularly smoking materials and sources of ignition, including mobile telephones on tankers. Should any offensive weapons or implements be found they should be confiscated and retained in a safe location on board.
- Recording the number embarked, specifically identifying gender, children and those requiring medical attention.
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- Segregation of individuals, if possible, into appropriate size groups for accommodation based on medical condition, gender, age or by family group
- Immediate marshalling of rescued individuals away from the point of embarkation to ensure that control is maintained.
- Luggage and personal effects of those being rescued should not be permitted to hamper the safe embarkation of all those to be rescued. The priority remains the safety of the crew, the ship and those rescued.

Security of the Crew and Ship

The careful management of rescued personnel which may outnumber the ship's crew is essential for the security and safety of the ship and crew. It is also appropriate to give consideration to managing the risk of rescued persons becoming stowaways or, in extremis, even attempting to hijack the ship and its crew. If there is concern regarding the security of the ship and its crew, the Master should request assistance through the RCC and/or the relevant point of contact for the maritime security operation in the region.

Following security measures may be implemented:

- Prevent access to sensitive and/or dangerous areas of the ship and accommodation and contain embarked personnel within the intended designated areas e.g. poop deck
- Search those rescued and confiscate, at the point of embarkation, offensive items or potential weapons, smoking materials and on tankers, other specific sources of ignition including mobile telephones and handheld electronic devices.
- Any personal effects embarked should be searched and any inappropriate items confiscated for handing over to authorities at port of disembarkation with name of the person carrying the items.
- Establish controlled areas in order to facilitate supervision and monitoring. Demarcation of different zones can be achieved by using rope or tape. Where practical and safe, physical barriers might also be used.
- Enforce strictly any policies relevant to the safety of the ship and the crew, for example 'no smoking' and use of naked lights, particularly on board tankers or vessels where hazardous cargoes are carried.
- Establish watches and plans for monitoring those embarked utilizing head count of rescued persons at regular intervals.
- Limit the availability of information to rescued persons regarding security routines, the number of crew, any other information about the ship, or the involvement of coastguard or naval vessels.

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Sanitation and Hygiene

Preventing the spread of sickness or illness should be a priority. Any outbreak of illness or spread of infection will risk harm to those rescued and also to the ship's crew.

Some basic precautions will include:

- Provision of sanitary facilities separate from those used by the crew;
- Separation of sanitary provisions from food and water supplies;
- Separation of healthy rescued persons from those that are sick;
- a suitable location (preferably refrigerated) to store the bodies of any recovered persons who subsequently do not survive. Guidance on handling deceased persons is included in IAMSAR Vol. II
- The use of impermeable gloves, filtered masks, eye protection, strict hand washing procedures and quarantine any clothing or PPE used, including footwear.

Reference: Large Scale Rescue Operations at Sea, Second Edition 2015