

RNLI STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Working with a Casualty Vessel

Validation

Prepared by	O. Mallinson – Operations Manager (Lifeboats)
Validated by	Peter Dawes - Lifesaving Services Manager
ID Number	LB-SOP-5.3-01
Last updated	September 2015
Review date	Annually
Pages	2

Objective

To ensure the correct procedures are carried out when working with a casualty vessel

Reference Documentation

Crew Members handbook
CoBT 1
Class Specific Manual

Checklist

SOP communicated and understood by all?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate PPE identified /specified?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hazards

Manual Handling	Weather and sea conditions
Entrapment	Slips, trips and falls
Lines under load	

Health and Safety

 Caution	 Lifejackets to be worn	 Protective clothing must be worn	 Hard hat area	 Protective footwear must be worn	
---	---	---	--	---	--



- PPE including helmet must be worn on casualty vessels
- Crew should only disembark the lifeboat on helm's or coxswain's signal

Assessment

- Establish communications with casualty and other SAR assets
- Identify hazards on or around the casualty vessel
- Use a dynamic risk assessment process and decide if the casualty is safe to board and work with

Preparation

- Brief crew on approach, conditions, strong points and allocate tasks
- Arrange fenders, roving fenders and lines
- Inspect casualty vessel for hazards, damage or suspicious activity and report via radio to CG
- Locate PPE, radio and other equipment to be used

Approach and embarkation

- Brief crew on plan
- Ensure correct PPE is worn, including helmet
- Post lookout to communicate distance from casualty (if required)
- Make approach
- Consider vessels interaction if both vessels are making way
- **Crew should only disembark the lifeboat on helm's or coxswain's signal**

On-board the casualty

- Get to a safe place on-board. Always ensure personal safety when moving around the vessel
- Make communication with master of vessel
- Make an assessment of the persons on board and the vessel, remember casualty care precautions
- Pass information to the lifeboat



Crew safety is the priority. If persons on the vessel are suspicious or pose a danger to the crew or lifeboat, no crew member should be transferred. The helm or coxswain should stand off the vessel and make communication from a distance. Information about the vessel should be passed to the coastguard. Consider keeping crew within the wheel house.