

RESCUE SAFETY:

- Do not attempt a rescue that exceeds the limits of your capabilities, your training, or your vessel.
- Do not place your vessel, crew, or passengers in serious danger.
- Have a plan prior to action. Communicate the plan and your expectations to your crew, and if possible to the distressed vessel. Keep Coast Guard informed of your actions.
- Have a plan for recovery of survivors onto high sided vessels.
- Ensure all crew are wearing PFDs and safety gear when working at rails or on small boats.

First Coast Guard District RCC and Sector Command Centers:

Emergency Phone Numbers:

RCC Boston:

1-800-848-9549

1-617-223-8555

Sector Northern New England

1-800-410-9549

1-207-767-0303

1-207-779-1680

Sector Boston

1-617-223-5750

Sector Southeastern New England

1-866-819-9128

Sector Long Island Sound

1-800-774-8724

Sector New York

1-718-354-4353

Rescue at Sea

GUIDANCE FOR “GOOD SAMARITAN” VESSELS ASSISTING IN MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE



DEVELOPED BY:
U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR NORTHERN
NEW ENGLAND, SOUTH
PORTLAND, MAINE
AND
PASSENGER VESSEL
ASSOCIATION
(PVA)

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Good Samaritan Vessel Response Guidance:

What is a Good Samaritan Vessel?

A private vessel that renders voluntary aid without compensation to a person or vessel who is injured or in danger. Good Samaritans are expected to exercise reasonable care to avoid negligent conduct that worsens the position of the victims, or act in reckless and wanton conduct in performing the rescue.



Is there a duty to assist?

- For centuries, sailors have voluntarily assisted others in distress. This maritime rescue doctrine encourages seafarers to go to the aid of life and property in distress.
- Good Samaritan vessels are usually the first to arrive on scene, and are often critical in saving lives, especially in remote regions with limited SAR facilities.
- Federal statute, 46 USC 2304 requires a master to render assistance if the master **can do so without serious danger to the master's vessel or individuals on board.**

If you hear a MAY DAY or Distress Call:

- Remain silent, listen, and write down information about the boat in distress, especially the location.
- USCG should respond immediately. Listen for direction from USCG to assist.
- If the USCG or other rescue authority **does not respond:**
 - ◆ Attempt to reach the USCG while traveling toward the distressed boat. Once contact is made with USCG, relay MAYDAY information. Follow USCG directions.
 - ◆ Notify distressed vessel that MAYDAY was heard and is being relayed.
- If you cannot reach the USCG, continue to communicate with the distressed vessel and assist to the best of your ability while not placing yourself or your passengers in danger. Continue efforts to contact USCG.
- As long as the MAYDAY situation is ongoing, other vessels are required to stay off Channel 16.

Responding to UMIB:

- USCG normally issues an **U**rgent **M**arine **I**nformation **B**roadcast to alert potential “Good Samaritan” vessels in the area to an emergency.
- If you are in a position to assist, respond to USCG and follow their directions.

RESCUE AT SEA

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Search and Rescue (SAR) Organization:

The USCG is responsible to conduct maritime SAR in accordance with established international and national SAR policy. Key terms to understand are:

- **Rescue Coordination Center (RCC):** The RCC is the location responsible for the efficient organization of search and rescue services and for coordinating conduct of search and rescue operations. Command Centers at USCG Sector Commands may also coordinate with the RCC on SAR operations.
- **SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC):** The SMC, located at the RCC or regional Command Center, is the person in charge of the planning and execution of a SAR operation.
- **On Scene Coordinator (OSC):** The OSC is a person designated by the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC) to co-ordinate search and rescue operations within a specified area. The person in charge of the 1st rescue vessel to arrive on scene will normally assume the functions of OSC until the SMC directs that the person be relieved by a more capable vessel or USCG unit. Good Samaritan vessels may be placed in the role of OSC. See inside for guidance on OSC duties.



RESCUE AT SEA

If You Are The First Vessel To Arrive On Scene:

- √ Rescue People from the Water. Victims not wearing life jackets are high priority.
- √ Establish contact with distressed vessel master. Assist as requested within your vessel and crew capability.
- √ Establish & maintain contact with USCG.
- √ Assume On Scene Coordinator (OSC) role. Take Control of other arriving vessels and SAR actions until relieved by USCG SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC).

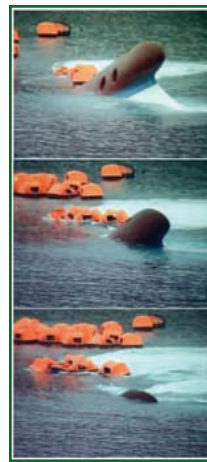


Good Samaritan OSC Duties:

- At the direction of the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC), coordinate operations of all SAR facilities on scene until relieved by USCG. This includes coordinating all on-scene rescue assets, tracking lifeboats & life rafts, & accounting for survivors.
- Coordinate on-scene communications and maintain communications with the SMC. See “Best Practices” section.
- Track on scene arrival and departure of rescue assets. Inform arriving vessels of your role as On Scene Coordinator (OSC), communications plan, and safety concerns. Assign tasks as required.
- Maintain detailed record of operations: areas searched, sightings, actions and results obtained.
- Request additional rescue resources and SMC assistance as necessary. Recommend to the SMC the release of resources not required.
- Track number and location of survivors. Report to SMC. See Accountability Section.

On Scene Communications Best Practices:

- Use VHF CH 16 only as hailing / emergency frequency. Switch to alternate channel for on scene operations and reports to SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC).
- On Scene Coordinator (OSC) should serve as sole communicator to distressed vessel master. Remember, master is dealing with emergency, do not overload with un-necessary communications.
- Maintain communication with SMC. This is critical. Provide regular updates on:
 - ◆ Weather/sea state
 - ◆ Visual description of distressed vessel: draft, visual damage, list, fire/smoke, location of passengers, number recovered, etc.
 - ◆ On scene search actions, resources, recommendations and potential problems.
 - ◆ Significant events and changes in distressed vessel condition.
- ◆ Name and contact information of rescue vessels with survivors on board.
- ◆ Number of survivors on each rescue vessel, and destination of each vessel upon release from scene.
- ◆ It is critical to track the location of all evacuees from the distressed vessel. The USCG will continue SAR until everyone is accounted for.



RESCUE AT SEA

Evacuee/Survivor Accountability:

1. If a small event with only one or two rescue boats:

- Report the numbers and names of evacuees to the On Scene Coordinator (OSC). If no OSC, report directly to the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC). Include your contact information, condition of evacuees, and your destination for offloading.
- Upon arrival at offloading destination, contact the SMC and confirm the number and names of evacuees, and provide additional information as requested.



2. If a larger mass rescue event with many rescue boats:

- Each rescue boat reports to the OSC the total number and condition of survivors on board, and then stands by for instructions on the location for evacuee offload.
- OSC relays the information from the rescue boats to the SMC. In a mass rescue type event, the SMC will direct rescue vessels to specific landing sites where evacuees will be offloaded and processed.
- OSC directs rescue boats to the designated landing site, and reports their release and ETA to SMC.
- Rescue boats report their arrival time at designated landing site to the SMC, and confirms the total number of persons offloaded. SMC may provide additional tasking.
- It is critical to track the location of all evacuees from the distressed vessel. The USCG will continue SAR until everyone is accounted for.