

Australian Transport Council

Extract Only

**National Standard
for
Commercial Vessels**

Extract Only

**PART E
OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

Emergency Procedures - A guide from the NSCV

The response to an emergency on a vessel must be rapid and effective in reducing the consequences of the emergency.

Prior contingency planning shall be undertaken to:

- a) determine appropriate solutions to the generic hazards or emergency situations identified in; and
- b) identify any other hazards that could result in emergency situations, and the solutions to those hazards. In particular vessel and operation specific hazards should be identified.

An emergency plan shall be prepared for each vessel. The plan shall document the solutions determined during the contingency planning. The emergency plan shall be carried onboard the vessel in a form that is readily available for reference by any member of the crew.

Minimum generic emergency situations for the purposes of contingency planning

Emergency situation	Typical actions
Fire	Identify existence & location Raise the alarm Emergency stations for crew Assembly stations for passengers Account for all crew and passengers Escape of persons from fire effected areas Actions to contain fire Actions to extinguish fire Re-entry to fire affected spaces Assess further action Recover equipment
Person overboard	Preventative measures to reduce the risk of people falling overboard Systems to raise alarm Raise the alarm Provide floatation for persons in the water Mark position of person overboard Emergency stations for crew Assembly stations for passengers Account for all crew and passengers Search for unaccounted persons Recover person overboard First aid/medical attention Recover equipment
Severe weather	Statement of vessel capability and owner's policy Monitor weather Preparations to secure vessel in shelter where appropriate Avoiding action where appropriate Precautions and management of the vessel if caught in severe weather

Emergency situation	Typical actions
Personal injury / medical emergency	Monitor health and safety of persons onboard Succession of command First aid Medical advice by radio Evacuation by helicopter or other vessel Evacuation by calling in to shore Advice to next of kin
Assembly stations	Crew and passengers proceed to assembly area Account for all crew and passengers Search for missing people Provide instructions for use of safety equipment and techniques to optimise survival Provide assistance or labour as necessary Keep superfluous people clear of danger Carry out further action as directed
Collision / grounding / flooding	Systems to ensure watch keepers are alert Identify flooding Raise the alarm Emergency stations for crew Assembly stations for passengers Account for all crew and passengers Rescue of persons from flooded areas Actions to contain flooding Actions to curtail flooding Removal of water Assess further action
Abandon ship	Criteria for decision Person delegated to make decision Alarms for evacuation Emergency stations for crew Assembly stations for passengers Account for all crew and passengers Don survival equipment Communications of distress Launch of survival craft Evacuate into survival craft Post evacuation management

The emergency plan shall include the following information:

- a) A description of the particular emergency situation or situations being addressed by the plan.
- b) The emergency procedures to be followed in response to emergency situations.
- c) A list of persons and/or positions responsible for implementing the various procedures within the emergency plan, both prior to and during an emergency.