



VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE WHITSUNDAY

Use of Heaving Line
Version 1

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) Use of Heaving Line to transfer towline to a stricken vessel

1. Introduction

This SOP describes the procedure to prevent injury/damage when using the heaving line to transfer towline to a stricken vessel. This procedure is to be followed by all crew members

2. Reference

VMR Training – Risk Assessment 04/03/2019.
Incident investigation report 04/03/2019

JOB STEPS	POTENTIAL HAZARDS/RISKS	PROCEDURE	PPE
Preparing tow line	Slippery wet deck. tripping on ropes. Hands caught in lines	Attach heaving line to tow line Make sure both lines are free from tangles and ready to run Senior crew to supervise	Non-slip deck shoes Life jacket
Position the vessel close enough for a reasonable throw	Vessel contacting other vessel Crew member contacting other vessel	Skipper to pass a reasonable distance from stricken vessel on the windward side Crew to be instructed to keep clear	Non-slip deck shoes Life jacket
Throw the heaving line	Crew member caught in lines	All deck crew to stay clear of line of fire & all lines	Non-slip deck shoes Life jacket
Pay out towline to other vessel	Crew member caught in lines	All deck crew to stay clear of line of fire & all lines	Non-slip deck shoes Life jacket
Tie off tow line to Sampson post	Hands caught in ropes	Eyes on hands, use correct hitch. Adjust tow length as required by skipper	Non-slip deck shoes Life jacket

3. Summary

If we all follow these guidelines we will be less likely to have problems/injuries when using the heaving line.

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