



VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE WHITSUNDA

Module: SAFE LINE HANDLING
Type: SOP
Version: 1

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) SAFE LINE HANDLING

1. Introduction

This SOP describes the procedures for the safe handling of lines whilst on VMR1. It is the responsibility of every crew member to follow this procedure.

2. Reference

VMR Training – Risk Assessment 19 July 2017

3. Detailed Procedures

Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES shall any person wrap a line around any part of their body. The only part of the body that shall be in contact with a line is the palm of the hand with the fingers closed around the line to maintain control. Amputations have resulted from persons wrapping a line around a part of their body in an attempt to stop the outward flow of a line. The line should be wrapped around the samson post or bollard and gripped firmly enough to maintain control while still allowing the line to slide through your hands.

Never stand within the coils of a line. Always work with a line that is in front of you thus reducing any risk of becoming tangled in the line.

Always work to the outside of all lines to prevent being trapped and pinned against a part or corner of the vessel.

When securing lines to a bollard, cleat, or other type of deck fitting, do not allow your fingers, or hands to become jammed between the fitting and the line. This can be achieved by keeping your fingers on the outside of the fitting as you secure the line.

Handling a line under strain as you secure it to a fitting requires caution and is the reason why you do not grip a line tightly. Should the line surge out quickly it may pull your hands into the fitting. Sever rope burns can result from attempting to restrain a rapidly running out line.



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Detailed Procedures (cont..)

Never stand directly behind a line or cable under strain in case the line breaks and whips back, possible causing an injury.

Crew to be trained in line handling.

Skipper to use "DOCK" mode when in close quarters or berthing to decrease throttle response.

4. Summary

If we all follow these guidelines we will be less likely to have problems/injuries when handling lines on VMR1.

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