



TOWING

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Tow a disabled vessel or buoy (ATON units only).

A drill will automatically be deemed unsatisfactory if any of the following conditions are met:

- Jeopardizing safety of passengers and crew (ie. kill switch, jewelry, etc.)
- Unsafe operation or navigation of the boat
- Failure to wear and use serviceable crew safety and survival equipment
- Failure to use applicable operational risk management and updating as necessary

All steps with an (S) must be met.

This drill checklist applies only to platforms with installed towing equipment (i.e. tow bitt and tow reel with line).

PREPARATIONS:

Establish communications with distressed vessel (use CG working freq, provide ETA, advise people to don PFDs, determine material condition of vessel and get details of deck layout / fittings / backing plates / size of cleats, determine physical condition of people of distressed vessel, ask distressed vessel if anything has changed since initial contact with CG). (S)	
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Conduct boat crew briefing. (S)	
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Make up tow rig. Set up the deck with equipment staged and ready, attach two heaving lines to the tow rig, and assign crew members who will be on the heaving lines, tow bitt, and line handler.	
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Perform on scene assessment. (S)	
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Before the tow, brief disabled vessel on the following: (S)	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the towing vessel approach • Tell towed vessel when and how tow rig will be passed • Explain hook up procedure / tow rig connection • Safety instructions / line handling | |
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STERN TOW:

Maneuver towing boat into an optimum position.	
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Pass heaving line/tow line to disabled vessel. (S)	
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Pay out tow line and tend line away from boat's propulsion. (S)	
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Coxswain instructs crewmember to take working turn on the bitt after towline is secured on disabled vessel. (S)	
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Pay out appropriate length of towline. Adjust scope of towline to put towed vessel in step.	
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Coxswain instructs crewmember to make up the bitt. (S)	
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Set and maintain tow watch. (S)	
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Notify Unit of towing status.	
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Once disabled vessel in under tow, brief the towed vessel the following: (S) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency break away procedures• Operating instructions (steer behind, etc.)• Communications schedule• Establish back up emergency signals	
Display proper navigation lights and sound signals for weather conditions. (S)	
Install chaffing gear as needed.	
Maintain safe towing speed.	

ALONGSIDE TOW:

Brief crew on procedures. (S)	
Brief disabled vessel on procedures. (S)	
Prepare deck for alongside tow (i.e. rigged fenders and make alongside lines ready).	
Slow speed, break down tow bitt, shorten the tow, haul slack towline aboard, and tend line away from boat's propulsion. (S)	
Rig lines (bow, stern, towing strap, backing line if available) for alongside tow appropriately. (S)	
Energize appropriate navigation lights, as needed. (S)	
Notify Unit of towing status.	
Discuss mooring instructions with crew and disabled vessel. (S)	
Position a crewmember in a good position as a lookout aboard towed vessel on approach (if necessary).	
Safely moor assisted vessel. (S)	

COMMENTS / NOTES

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