

HANDLING FIRE ON A BOAT

FIRES ARE VERY SERIOUS

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Notify crew and tell them where the fire is
- Make sure everyone has life jacket on
- Turn the boat to prevent the wind from blowing fire into areas where people are
- Place mayday call to Coast Guard. If it turns out you can extinguish the fire and no longer need help, you can always cancel the mayday. Don't wait as fires can spread very fast
- Turn off all fuel supplies, including engine, stove, propane if possible
- Disconnect all electrical power sources if possible

PUT OUT THE FIRE

- Find the source and make sure you have a retreat path before putting it out
- Get familiar with how fire extinguishers work (plenty of YouTube videos) so you don't have to learn how during a real fire
- Remember the PASS system
 - P**ull the safety pink
 - A**im at base of fire
 - S**queeze the handle
 - S**weep from side to side at the base until it is out
- Make sure the fire is completely out. Use the entire contents of the extinguisher

CAVEATS

- If you have any doubt about your ability to put the fire out, don't try. Make mayday call
- If the fire is near the engines or any fuel which could cause an explosion, get everyone into life jackets and get off the boat as far away as you can
- Be especially careful with an engine fire; if you open up the engine compartment it could fuel the fire and make it much worse. If you have a gasoline engine, best to have an automatic fire suppression system on board. Almost all new boats have the system built in
- Have plenty of extinguishers, more than are required. And make sure they are workable; is it in the green? Does it look damaged or unusable. If they are rechargeable, make sure you get them inspected periodically
- Make sure everyone knows where the fire extinguishers are located. Consider marking the location in some way.