

OOD guide lines for leaving crew on a stranded vessel.

Not all strandings are the same, but below are some hints about what the OOD & Patrol Boat crew should do to discharge a duty of care. It is assumed that the patrol boat crew have offered to take the stranded vessels crew off but have been told by the vessels crew that they wish to stay on board and float the vessel off on the next HW.

This is a joint effort between the OOD and the Patrol Boat crew.

The **Patrol Boat** crew should either ask or make a written note of the following:

- Do they have food and drink.
- Do they have a working VHF radio ~ check that they understand the working channels for the Coastguard (Ch 16) and Medway VTS (Ch 74).
- Do they have mobile phone(s) ~ if they do **make a note of the number(s)**.
- Are they suitably dressed ~ remember that the weather/temperature may change before they get off.
- Number of persons on board.
- Make a note of the approximate position of the stranded vessel and the time that they went aground ~ this is so that an estimation of when they may float off can be made.
- Do they have a person ashore that could act as a **point of contact**, if so note the number.
- The name of, and type of boat.

Before leaving, if possible, the patrol boat should take the stranded vessels anchor and deploy it into deeper water so that when the tide returns the boat will float off into deeper water without much help from the vessels crew.

The **OOD** should do the following before standing down.

- Telephone Dover CG (**01304 210008**), ask for the “duty officer” and inform them of the situation ~ they will want to know most of the information gathered in the above list.
- Telephone Medway VTS (**0151 9496650**) and inform them of the situation.
- Telephone the class captain (if relevant) and inform them of the situation.
- Telephone the person who is the **point of contact** and inform them of the situation.

Finally the OOD should ask him/herself one question ~ have I done everything to make sure these people are as safe as possible? If the answer is yes then the OOD can stand down.

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