

Actions In Fog

This is the list the class produced, with just a couple of additions:

1. Check your position
2. Sound the foghorn (Every 2 minutes - 1 long blast for motor, one long and two short blasts for sail)
3. Get to shallow water and anchor away from traffic
4. Navigation lights on
5. Have a white flare and torches ready for use
6. Maintain a lookout all round – and listen
7. Put a lookout forward if appropriate
8. Maintain constant course and speed – this helps other vessels to track you and keeps you oriented to other sounds.
9. If under engine throttle back occasionally to hear better
10. Use radar if fitted
11. Maintain VHF watch Ch 16
12. Get all crew on deck
13. Keep warm, food and drink are still required
14. Hoist radar reflector
15. Wear life jackets - clip on harness if you wish.
16. Ready the liferaft and dinghy
17. Slow down if necessary for other ships
18. Avoid shipping lanes
19. Possibly change destination if safer or quicker
20. Check the depth
21. Wipe glasses frequently!
22. If heading for harbour, aim off to make sure of which side you are heading for.
Follow a depth contour to the entrance.

Actions in Heavy Weather – (read - Heavy Weather Sailing – Peter Bruce)

Clip on when the FIRST reef goes in.

Ensure spare diesel and petrol cans lashed down. Spilled fuel is dangerous and very slippery. Plastic caps will split and break, use jerry cans for security.

All lockers including cockpit lockers, gas and anchor secured.

Monitor position and ground track constantly.

Ensure washboards are accessible; washboards should be lockable - maybe carry a spare set.

Tie on dodgers with breakable string or shock cord.

Consider an EPIRB (what would happen if you did roll?)

Think about trailing warps early (need to be long).

Consider a series drogue (lots of small parachutes in series), many recommend them.

Method of securing lid of chart table.

Method of securing lid of fridge.

Make sure your oilies are waterproof.

Hot drinks and food made ready.

Floorboards and cushions fastened down.

No loose glass in the bottle store.

Put sweets and lemonade or similar in the cockpit for ready use.

More Heavy weather preparations

On Deck

Deflate dinghy and stow in deep locker

Get buckets and mooring lines (especially grey long lines) out of lockers into saloon

Bring all but one winch handle below. Identify spare handles Check navigation lights work

Tie up head sail with sail ties (to prevent it unfurling)

Consider preventer if sailing downwind

Remove cockpit sprayhood

Remove ventilators (dorades) and replace with cover plates

Consider taking horseshoe lifebuoys below

Instruct crew about use of manual bilge pump

Change to full gas canister if current one is low

Below deck

Issue seasickness tablets

Put on clothes for colder weather

Make thermos of coffee and soup. Make sandwiches and put in plastic bag

Give crew hot meal

Crew to adjust lifejackets to go over storm clothing

Brief crew about being clipped on, maintaining lookout, whereabouts of flares, grab bag, liferaft, sharp knife, search light

Add to grab bag: spare clothes, loo paper, food, passports all in plastic bags

Put EPIRB into grab bag

Charge handheld VHF

Put mobiles into plastic bags and then into pockets

Charge main batteries

Check windows all closed.

Consider shutting WC seacocks

Plot & record GPS position.

Check barometer regularly

Put dry towel near chart table.

Pump bilge. Use electric pump but instruct crew about use of manual pump.

Check torch batteries – replace if necessary.

Put all loose items into cupboards, eg books in saloon, cups in galley

Check rigging cutters