



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Asset Tasking and Search Instructions

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Aims and Objectives

- By the end of this session you will be able to
- 1. Understand when to task assets and their limitations
- 2. Complete a Tasking Form
- 3. Complete a Search Instructions Form
- 4. Have an understanding of TAPSIC

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Lifeboat Tasking

- When should a lifeboat be tasked?
- What considerations should be taken into account upon tasking a lifeboat?
- When should a lifeboat not be tasked?

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

The MC should only request the launch of a lifeboat when it is assessed that danger to life exists or is likely to develop. In all other instances, alternative means of assistance should be explored and a lifeboat only tasked if nothing suitable is available. This tasking should always be in conjunction with a CRT and a message entered into Vision if a CRT is not being tasked.

Weather, crew welfare, number of casualties, limitations of lifeboat, tides, number of crew, fatigue.

Should not specifically be asked to tow a casualty vessel.



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Lifeboat Tasking

- **Formal Request**
  - Requesting station
  - Request options. Launch, immediate readiness etc
- **Situation**
  - Details of casualties, known hazards, position, drifting, anchored or underway on scene weather
- **Mission/execution**
  - Plan for that lifeboat, other assets, availability of flank stations.
- **Task details**
  - What is the lifeboat to do, urgency of response
- **Communications**
  - Channels for incident, opportunity for LOM to ask questions

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

## Format

### Formal Request

1. Requesting station Call Sign

2. 'Request' options:

Launch of [name] lifeboat to...

Bring lifeboat and crew to Immediate Readiness for launch

Bring lifeboat and crew to [number] Minutes Notice for launch

Crew Assemble in [number] minutes/hours

### Situation

3. Details of casualty and nature of incident

4. Known hazards

e.g. contaminated environment, chemical or toxic cargo, cargo or structural collapse, chemical plume risk, fire, infectious casualty etc.

5. Positional information

e.g. Last known position, commence search position

Pass as Brg & Distance rather than Lat/Long

6. Predicted future movement, e.g:

underway – course, speed and intercept course

Drifting - direction and rate

Anchored

7. On-scene weather and sea conditions

8. Name of coordinating Coastguard Centre

LB Mission / Execution

9. MC's mission for the lifeboat in response to the situation

10. MC's plan for other units and their tasks (if involved)

11. Flank lifeboat station or airborne SAR unit (e.g. helicopter(s)) availability, status or tasking

### Task Details

12. What the lifeboat is requested to do e.g. rescue, tow, search for (visual, radar, electronic), assist, evacuate injured, etc.

13. Urgency of response

Communications

14. Communications frequencies/channels for the incident and any schedules

15. Opportunity for the LOM/LA to ask questions of the MC



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Lifeboat Tasking Form

Lifeboat Tasking Form

Note: Please refer to Lifeboat Tasking guidance on On5 for further details.

1. Requesting station Call Sign
2. Request
3. Details of casualty and nature of incident
4. Known hazards
5. Positional information
6. Predicted future movement
7. On-scene weather and sea conditions
8. Name of coordinating Coastguard Centre
9. MC's mission for the lifeboat in response to the situation
10. MC's plan for other units and their tasks (if involved)
11. Flank lifeboat station or airborne SAR unit (e.g. helicopter(s)) availability, status
12. What the lifeboat is requested to do
13. Urgency of response
14. Communications frequencies/channels for the incident and any schedule
15. Opportunity for the LOM/LA to ask questions of the MC

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Air Asset Tasking

- All SAR air assets, including Fixed Wing and Foreign, must be requested through ARCC.
- ARCC must be contacted by phone in the first instance.
- When contacting the ARCC: state the CGOC name and incident number.
- ARCC accepts requests for aeronautical SAR support and gauges each individual request against appropriateness, achievability and compliance with CAP 999.

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Air Asset Tasking

- **Who**
  - (Coordinating CGOC, Incident Zone, Incident Number)
  - Should be obtained on first contact
- **What**
  - The incident is and how many casualties with injuries if know?
- **Where**
  - The incident is, general area, then position, (OS Grid for on land. Lat/Long for offshore)?

**These are the only facts required for the 'TASK WHILE YOU ASK' procedure**

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Air Asset Tasking

- **When**
  - The incident occurred or was reported?
- **Weather**
  - On scene (Unofficial observation/description from FIF or CRT or other SRU)?
- **Watch**
  - Other response on-scene or proceeding with ETA?
  - Who is coordinating (On what Channel/has primacy)?
  - If there is any known drone (remotely piloted air systems) activity by other emergency service responders?
  - Any further questions are based on specific SOPs
  - The status of the request will be stated and if supported be followed by an ETA and which aircraft type, base from and callsign

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Air Asset Tasking Form

ARCC Tasking Form

Note: Please refer to Air Asset Tasking guidance on OmS for further details.

Coordinating Callign	Zone	Incident Number
Who Solent	19	036586

Details of incident and number of casualties if known

What MAYDAY RECEIVED AT 0023 UTC ON VHF CH16 FROM F/V MACKERELANGELO,  
6 PERSONS ON BOARD, SINKING WITH CREW ABANDONING TO LIFE RAFT.  
VESSEL DESCRIPTION: BLUE AND WHITE 17.5 METRE BEAM TRAWLER

Location of the incident | Description and position

Where IN POSITION 50 25.73N 002 20.83W.  
THIS POSITION IS 7.6 MILES SOUTH EAST ON BEARING 141 DEGREES FROM PORTLAND BILL  
LIGHTHOUSE

On-scene weather (observation | description from FIF, CRT or other)

Weather WIND: SOUTH WEST F8  
SEA STATE: ROUGH TO VERY ROUGH  
WEATHER: HEAVY RAIN  
VISIBILITY: POOR

Other response on-scene or proceeding with ETA | On what channel | who has primacy

Watch WEYMOUTH RNLI ALB PROCEEDING ETA 0123 UTC  
INCIDENT COMMS ON VHF CH16

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# CRT Tasking

- Provides Coastal Emergency Response capability
  - Surveillance, immediate rescue, stabilization, rope rescue, mud rescue, water rescue
- Rescue
  - Support effective prosecution of an incident, situational awareness, line of communication to others.
- Visual search
  - Provide the eyes on, assisting fixing position of an object at sea

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

## COAST RESCUE EXPERTISE

HM Coastguard's Coastguard Rescue Service (CRS) provides the Coastal emergency response capability of our service, delivering a range of specialist roles from initial response such as carrying out investigations surveillance reporting, immediate rescue or stabilisation of a casualty, to full search and rescue operations using rope rescue, mud rescue, coastal search and in-water rescue techniques and systems. CROs, SCOOs and COACs are HMCGs coast rescue specialists and their knowledge and understanding of local areas and conditions must be taken account of by SMCs and MCs.

## RESCUE

In almost all situations the deployment of a CRT can aid and support the effective prosecution of an incident by providing the MC or SMC with a wealth of additional information and situational awareness from the scene and it is an important line of communications to First Informant(s), deployed assets and other emergency services that may be responding.

## INSHORE VISUAL SEARCH

A CRT or CRTs can provide an inshore visual search capability out to the maximum visibility on the day. Detection will, of course, be dependent on the sea state, target(s) size(s) and visibility. Teams with binoculars can look for and report on objects in the sea and give bearings to them (two bearings from separated locations can also provide the SMC with a position fix once plotted onto a chart).

Therefore MCs and SMCs should consider the deployment of a CRT as the "norm" during all incidents. However it is recognised that there may be some occasions where it is not appropriate to deploy a CRT.

Although rare, on occasions, where MC's and SMC's determine that a CRS capability is inappropriate they should record their reasoning in VISION as a "MC or SMC comment."



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# CRT Taskings

- **Technical Rescue**

- In the event that the callout is to affect a 'Technical' rescue then two teams in close proximity with the technical skills required are to be paged at the same time.
- This is to ensure that appropriate personnel and competence is mustered to execute the rescue.
- Technical Rescue in this context is defined as being for either a Rope, Water or Mud rescue
- Consideration should also be given to multiple team paging in the event of a search that requires an urgent response, may cover difficult ground or is time limited.

- **Multiple CRTs**

- to ensure a sufficient turn out to perform the task required
- to cover shortfalls in the required competencies in a team
- the incident requires equipment and skills not held by one CRT alone
- to provide safety back up to the first team

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# CRT tasking form

Coastguard Rescue Service Tasking Form

Note: Please refer to CRT Tasking guidance on Orid for further details.

Who (number of people/casualties involved)  
What has happened  
Where (location - place name and grid reference)  
When did it happen  
How did it happen (if known)  
Who else is involved or responding e.g. Fire, Ambulance, Police

Situation

What the SMC wants to achieve e.g. rescue person overboard, search, provide support to police, assist RNLI etc.

Reason

How does the SMC currently think the response should be delivered? which resource(s) are going to do or are doing what

Execution

Any particular task(s) that the SMC requires the CRT(s) to do

Task(s)

Additional information

Context: what channels in use, what channels is CRT to operate in, what channels are other resources or responders on

Weather: what is current weather (wind speed and direction, sea state, visibility, cloud cover, sun/moon/star time)

Tides: what is state of tide and next H&L and LW

Constraints: Are there any constraints to response (e.g. closed roads, flooded areas, large crowd, lack of CRT members, police cordon, etc.)

Risks (if known): are there any particular risks (e.g. collapsed drifts, coastal flooding, dangerous persons, chemical fumes/leakage)

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Passing Search Instructions

- Search units must be given information and instructions prior to any search effort and at appropriate times during a search.

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# TAPSIC

**Target**

Type, Description, Name, C/S, MMSI,  
POB, Detection Aids

**Area**

GPS Coordinates

**Pattern**

Type

**Search Details**

CSP, Direction of 1<sup>st</sup> Leg, Length of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Leg, Number of Legs, Track Spacing,  
Speed, Height

**Information**

Weather, OSC, ACO, Other assets,  
Other relevant information

**Communications**

Required channel, Safety check  
schedule

[Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas](#)



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Vision Search Instructions

Search Instructions - Rapid Response

Search Instructions for

Incident Details

Search Target(s)

You are to carry out  Commence Search Position

First Leg Direction (COG)  Degrees True Height  ft. Leg Length  n.m. Speed (SOG)  kts.

Other Information (other units participating / OSC / On Scene WX etc.)

Communications - With this  With Other Units  With OSC

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Vision Search Instructions

Search Instructions - Datum Point

Search Instructions for

Incident Details

Search Target(s)

You are to carry out  Commence Search Position

First Leg Direction (COG)  Degrees True    Leg Length  n.m.    Track Spacing  n.m.

First Turn (L or R)     Number of Legs     Height  ft.    Speed (SOG)  kts.

Other Information (other units participating / OSC / On Scene WX etc.)

Communications - With this  With Other Units  With OSC

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# RNLI Forms

ALB TASKING FORM	
Co-ordinating station:	Date time group:      ORN:
1. Description of incident:	
2. Search target:	
3. Commence search position:	
4. Target information:	Target information - Track length - Colour/light - Sailing number - Persons on board (POB) - Detection with vessel
5. Type of search:	
6. Leg length (range):	7. Direction of first leg (COG):
8. Track spacing (line width):	9. First turn left or right (if applicable):
10. Search speed (SOG):	11. Number of legs:
12. On scene co-ordinator (OSC) and channel: <b>Advise Coastguard when commencing penultimate leg.</b>	
13. Other search units involved and channels:	
14. Other information:	Other information - Additional casualty information - Local weather conditions - MMSI number - Date time group and time - Search time - Search number - Distress name
15. Lifebelt to Coastguard:	Lifebelt to Coastguard - Lifebelt number and speed - Search time and direction - Other information - Search speed and direction - Date time group - Other search units - Other search number - Other search name - Other search number - Other search name - Other search number - Other search name - Other search number - Other search name
Call back with final waypoint position	

ILB TASKING FORM	
Co-ordinating station:	Date time group:      ORN:
1. Description of incident:	
2. Search target:	
3. Commence search position:	
4. Search type:	
5. Direction of first leg (COG):	
6. Leg length:	
7. Search speed (SOG):	
8. Number of legs: <b>Advise Coastguard when commencing penultimate leg.</b>	
9. Other information:	Other information - Additional casualty information - Local weather or conditions - MMSI number - Last known position and time - Datum time - Search duration - Distress channel
10. Communications:	Communications - Other units tasked - On scene co-ordinator - On scene co-ordinator
11. Lifebelt to Coastguard:	Lifebelt to Coastguard - Lifebelt number and speed - Date time group - Search time and direction - Search speed and direction - Other information - Lifebelt search direction - Date to establish conditions etc. - Other search units etc. - Other search number - Other search name - Other search number - Other search name
Call back with final waypoint position	

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas