### Purpose

To prevent a vessel fire from spreading, attempt to contain or extinguish it, and prepare for potential abandonment.

### Responsibilities

* Master – to manoeuvre the vessel, assign crew roles and responsibilities, advise authorities and determine if abandonment is required
* Crew - to assess, contain and fight the fire, while preparing for potential abandonment
* All – Ensure you are familiar with: operation/location of firefighting equipment, fire escape routes, techniques for fighting different types of fires (i.e. fuel, electrical, etc.)

### Procedure

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| **Step** | **Vessel Fire Response Procedure** |
| **1.** | When you spot a fire, notify your crewmates and Master immediately.  Crewmembers not at the helm should grab a fire extinguisher or hose and come to the location to assist with putting out the fire.  Close windows and doors to contain fire if possible.  Remove combustibles from area surrounding fire if possible without taking undue risk. |
| **2.** | If the fire is serious:  If in port, the master must call the local fire department  If underway, the master is to advise shore authorities of vessel location and situation.  He/she must also alert the crew and notify them that they are to carry out their individually assigned tasks as outlined in their emergency response drills. |
| **3.** | The crew must determine the severity of the fire and maintain constant communication with the Master to notify him/her of any changes. |
| **4.** | Even if the fire seems controllable, prepare lifesaving equipment in case abandonment is required.  Remember, a fire can get out of hand in a matter of minutes. Follow your emergency response drill procedures. |
| **5.** | If the fire is small and it can be fought without risk to crew, do so.  **DO** **NOT** try to fight a fire if:   * it is generating a large amount of smoke and you are at risk of inhalation * it is in close proximity to flammable or combustible materials * it could cut off your exit |
| **6.** | When using fire extinguisher, stand at least six feet from the fire, and keep your exit at your back.  Think of the word **PASS,** which will prompt you for each of the four following steps:  **P** – Pull the pin on the fire extinguisher  **A** - Aim the nozzle of the extinguisher at the BASE of the fire  **S** - Squeeze the handle lever  **S** - Sweep from side to side.  Work the extinguishing agent over the base of the fire, starting at the closest point.  If fire hose available and this is not an electrical or grease or oil fire, use it. |
| **8.** | If your extinguisher runs out or the fire is too big, get out and shut the door.  If your vessel is equipped with a CO2 system. Ensure the space is clear and activate it now. |
| **10.** | Master – monitor the situation while manoeuvring to keep the fire out of the wind.  Determine whether the risk of fire spreading or of explosion warrants abandoning ship. |
| **11.** | Keep MCTS and nearby vessels up-to-date on circumstances and assistance required. |
| **12.** | If needed, notify crewmembers of the order to abandon ship and notify MCTS of this decision.  Abandon ship following your emergency response drill procedure. |