

HOW TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE DRILLS

Be Realistic

- Scenarios should be as realistic as possible.
- Crews should feel some pressure; pressure is normal. However, each crewmember must understand his or her personal responsibility to be safe. It is part of the job.

Be Spontaneous

- Don't always announce drills ahead of time, but always announce a drill as a drill
- Don't always conduct drills at the same time or place. Try them at the dock, while underway, at night, in heavy rain. Be creative!

Do Hands-On Drills

- Retention for hands on learning is 90 percent.
- Crewmembers should touch equipment as much as practical.
- Familiarity with equipment during both night and day should be stressed.



Make Drills Progressive

- Start with simple walk-throughs and build skill and speed, but never include running.
- Progress to more complicated scenarios.
- Throw in "curves" to make scenarios more interesting.

Build Teamwork.

- Teamwork will increase efficiency and save lives.
- Crewmembers should cross-train to cover each other's responsibilities in the event of injury. If the skipper is injured is the crew prepared?
- All hands should participate in drills.

Debrief All Drills

- A drill is not complete until it is debriefed.
- Each member should talk about what was learned and how it could be done better