

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today, you will learn about personal survival techniques you can use at sea in the event of ship abandonment. When you are at sea, disaster can strike in a matter of moments. We will strive to provide information that will increase your knowledge and give you the skills needed to keep yourself and others safe.



HARD HAT
TRAINING SERIES

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In 2012, Jose Salvador Alvarenga and Ezequiel Cordoba left Mexico for a fishing trip in a small, 24-foot vessel when they were hit by a fierce storm that sent them far off course. Their communication systems were knocked out and their supplies washed overboard. Stranded, they were forced to survive by catching fish, birds, and sea turtles with their bare hands.



After four months, Ezequiel died after becoming severely sick from a bird he ate, but Mr. Alvarenga remained alive by drinking his own urine and the blood of birds and turtles, as well as by catching rainwater. In January of 2014, he was rescued by people living in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. He had been at sea for 15 months.



Although alive, he was wearing only his underpants, was severely dehydrated, and was plagued with back pain and swollen joints. He had covered a total of 5,000 miles of ocean in his small, fiberglass boat.



Between 2011 and 2016, a total of 105 ships were abandoned at sea. 61 (58%) of these were fishing vessels.





Studies show that between 2011 and 2016, about 480 crewmen lost their lives at sea, while over 5,600 crewmembers were injured.



These numbers aren't limited to small vessels on a day trip. Brian was a crewmember aboard a large fishing vessel off the coast of Alaska. In the early morning hours, there was an explosion on the vessel and the crew was forced to abandon ship.



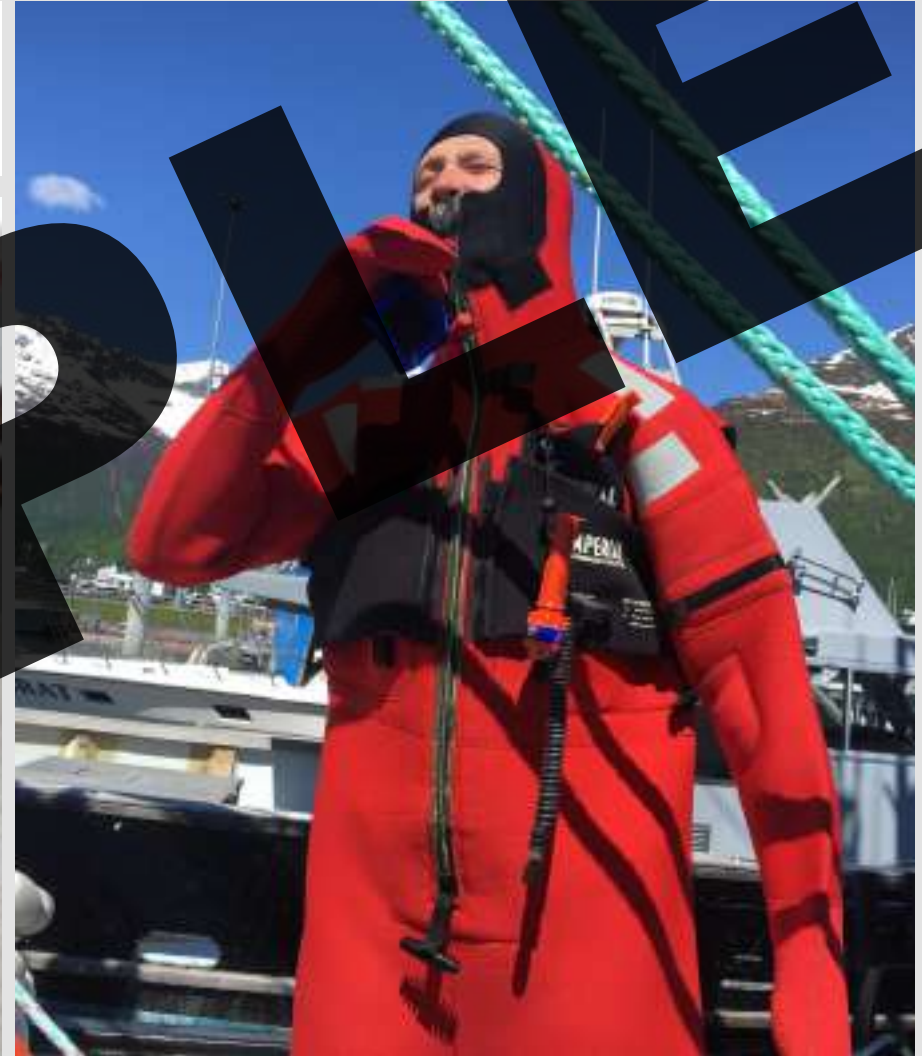
Upon entering the water, Brain attempted to inflate his life vest, but only one side deployed. He was forced to tread water while waiting for rescue by a lifeboat, but quickly became hypothermic in the 40 degree waters and drowned.





Cases like Brian's happen all the time, but they can be easily avoided by taking simple steps, such as regular equipment inspections, before an emergency occurs. This could mean the difference between surviving or perishing at sea.

During the course of this training, you will learn to identify important life-saving equipment aboard vessels, as well as to don the appropriate personal safety clothing. These will prepare you to act quickly in case of an emergency.



In addition, you will learn what to do in the event of specific emergencies on board and how to survive at sea, if necessary. We will also make you aware of ways to make yourself visible to rescue crews and safely board rescue vessels.





These are some of the main standards concerning proper maritime safety. Many industries have additional standards, as do some states. It is your responsibility to know all federal, state, provincial, local, and company rules that apply to your equipment and jobsite.

It is important, of course, that you are trained to safely handle emergencies at sea for your own protection. If you don't receive training, you are just as likely to put other crew members in jeopardy as you are to jeopardize your own safety. The more trained professionals there are who willfully ignore their training, the more dangerous your work environment becomes.



By the end of this training, you should have a general knowledge of how to act quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. The skills you learn today may save your life tomorrow.

Equipment

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Before hoping to survive at sea, it is essential that you understand how to recognize the many pieces of lifesaving equipment that you will find on board your vessel, as well as your life raft. In this section, we will walk you through the most common pieces of equipment that you will see and briefly discuss how they can be used when it becomes necessary to abandon ship.

No matter how many times you have reviewed the equipment, in a dire situation even the most knowledgeable of persons will make a mistake. This is why it is essential to frequently participate in hands-on trainings in order to help you efficiently perform tasks, even under pressure.



It is important to note that supplies vary according to your vessel. It is your responsibility to know the equipment individual to your vessel and to ensure that you are trained on how to use that specific equipment.



Equipment Aboard Vessels

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