

Ocean Explorer

- Safety Equipment, Vessel Hazards and Orientation -

Safety / Survival Equipment-

The *F/V Ocean Explorer* is equipped with all of the safety and survival equipment necessary to meet or exceed all requirements for a vessel of her size while operating in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean.

Standard vessel equipment consists of two 15 person liferafts, an 8 person raft, thirteen Survival Suits, a complete set of flares, two SART's, three emergency VHF handheld radios, a 406 megahertz EPIRB, a Class 'B' EPIRB, four life-rings with self-activating strobes, a full complement of portable fire extinguishers, a Halon fixed fire extinguishing system, two complete fire-fighting suits, three self-contained-breathing-apparatus (SCBA's) with spare bottles, two Jacob's ladders, a 'Jason's Cradle' for man overboard recovery, fire axes, an emergency fire pump, and a portable dewatering pump.

For this cruise there is also a portable platform on the main trawl deck that contains 38 additional suits, as well as two more 15 person rafts.

The location of all other emergency equipment is designated on the vessel schematic that is mounted in the passageway on the main trawl deck level.

Bridge communication equipment consists of four VHF radio's, two single-side-band radio's, a sat-phone, and an Immarsat A system. All are capable means of transmitting distress signals across a broad range of radio frequencies.

General Alarm

Should an emergency situation arise the Captain will ring the General Alarm to alert all vessel personnel. When the General Alarm is activated, all personnel should proceed quickly and calmly to the upper wheelhouse deck, and muster near the survival suit / life-raft platform.

Survival Suits

Survival suits are located in the aluminum platform on the wheelhouse deck.

Donning

To don a survival suit, pull it from the bag and lay it flat on deck. Donning is easier if you remove your shoes first. Once the suit is laid out, sit down, open the front and put your feet in. Slide down like your crawling into a sleeping bag, then put your arms in and the hood up. Grasp the zipper with both hands, arch your back and pull the zipper all the way up.

It is important that your survival suit fits properly. The 'Universal' size is the most common, but Jumbo and Small suits are available if necessary.

Liferafts

The two primary life rafts are located on the wheelhouse level, just aft of the pilot-house doors. There is one on each side of the vessel. There is a third raft mounted on the gantry. Each raft can be manually launched, or automatically deployed by a Hydro-static release mechanism that is mounted to the raft cradle. Since the boat has to be submerged for the hydro-static release to activate, we would prefer a manual launch.

From the living quarters, the preferred access to the rafts is through the main exit to the trawl deck. The stairs leading up through the wheelhouse can also be used. From the lower deck and aft machinery spaces, quick access to the vessel exterior can be gained by passing through the sonar room on the port side, and up the stairs.

Launching the rafts is an absolute last resort and not to be attempted until the Captain gives the order. Designated members of the crew are assigned to be in charge of launching should it become necessary, but other personnel may be requested to assist.

It is best to launch the raft on the 'lee' side of the vessel if possible. Should it be necessary to move the raft, under no circumstances should it be rolled across the deck. This could cause the long painter line that is stowed inside the container to shift and entangle with the CO-2 release mechanism, and render it inoperable.

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Raft Launching:

Should a situation arise that would require one of you to assist with a launch, the procedure is as follows:

1. Release the small pelican hook to remove the hold-down cable.
2. Assure that the painter line is secure to vessel.
3. Pull out enough of the painter line so that the raft container can reach the sea surface.
4. Lift the raft from it's cradle and drop it over the side. Make sure that the slack painter line will not tangle with anything on the deck, or with any personnel as it falls.
5. Once the raft container is floating in the water, pull out the rest of the painter line until it stops, then jerk the line to trigger the CO-2 inflation.
6. After the raft has inflated, pull it as close to the boat as possible and begin crew evacuation.
7. When the raft is loaded, and before the vessel sinks, cut the painter line with the safety knife located in the pocket that is mounted on the canopy near the entrance.

E.P.I.R.B. - Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon.

Upon activation, the 406 MHz. EPIRB is a device that sends a radio signal to a satellite to alert SAR agencies that a vessel is in distress. In addition to pin-pointing the position, it also broadcasts the vessel ID so they can access the vessel particulars, such as size, color, etc.

The EPIRB is located on the exterior wall of the wheelhouse on the Port side. It is also equipped with a hydro-static release for self-deployment.

Other Emergency Equipment

Flares, SARTS, and Emergency VHF radio's are located inside the wheelhouse for convenience. Should we need them, you may be asked to help collect or carry them.

Firefighting

Firefighting suits and SCBA's are located in the hallway of the main deck. There are portable fire extinguishers located throughout the vessel in easily accessible locations. There are fixed fire extinguishing systems in key locations, but these are not to be used by anyone but the Chief Engineer.

Man Overboard

The three most important actions in a man-overboard situation is to notify the wheelhouse, throw something overboard to mark the position, and to keep your eye on the person in the water.

There are life-rings with strobes mounted near the stern, with floating smoke flares near the stations. Additional life-rings are mounted near the wheelhouse.

In a man overboard situation some of you may be requested to assist with recovery. The procedure for MOB recovery is as follows:

1. The captain will sound the general alarm to muster all crew above decks to assist with lookout and recovery.
2. One crew member will don a special 'rescue swimmer' survival suit that is rigged with a harness. Other crew will deploy the Jacob's ladder, and prepare the Jason's Cradle.
3. The Captain will maneuver the vessel and approach the victim. Crew will deploy Jason's Cradle, and Rescue Swimmer as necessary.

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Station Bill

In the event of Any Emergency, the Captain will activate the 'GENERAL ALARM' to alert vessel personnel that an emergency situation exists.

At the sound of the 'GENERAL ALARM', All Personnel shall proceed quickly and calmly, to muster on the deck behind the wheelhouse, to await further instructions from the Captain.

Procedures and instructions for Emergency Situations:

MAN OVERBOARD PROCEDURES:

- Yell 'MAN OVERBOARD!'. Get the attention of any other persons on deck.
- Notify the wheelhouse immediately
- Deploy any device that floats that will act as a Marker. This could be a life-ring, a bouy, a float, etc.
- Keep your eyes on the person in the water. Extend your arm towards them and maintain watch

RECOVERY:

- 1 - Deploy Jacob's Ladder.
- 2 - Connect Jason's Cradle to crane on Starboard side and ready for deployment.
- 3 - Prepare tag lines for retrieval and/or rescue swimmer.
- 3 - Deploy rescue swimmer as required.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Captain Shawn O'Brien - Operate and manuever the vessel.

Neil - Man the Starboard crane.

Norm and Dan - Deploy Jacob's Ladder and ready the Jason's Cradle. Ready tag lines.

John - Don rescue swimmer survival suit and stand by to be deployed.

Other Personnel - Proceed to Wheelhouse. Act as look-outs and assist with recovery as requested by Captain.

FIRE PROCEDURES:

- 1 - Notify wheelhouse immediately.
- 2 - Crew to don Fire Fighting suits and SCBA's.
- 3 - Secure ventilation / power source to compartment.
- 4 - Extinguish the blaze.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Captain Shawn O'Brien - Operate and manuever the vessel.

Chief Norm - Secure power source and ventilation. Activate fire pump.

Neil and John - Don Fire Suits and SCBA's.

Dan Carney - Secure hatches. Prepare hose and equipment for entry point.

Other Personnel - Proceed to Wheelhouse. Stand by to assist as requested.

ABANDON SHIP PROCEDURES:

- Muster behind the wheelhouse. Await Captains orders before Abandoning Ship.
- Don Survival Suits.
- Gather EPIRB, Flares, Emergency Radio's and other survival equipment.
- Deploy Life Rafts.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Captain Shawn O'Brien - Transmit 'MAY-DAY'. Give the order to Abandon Ship.

Dan Carney - Gather Flares, EPIRB and other equipment.

Norm - Prepare Life Raft #1 - Starboard Side. Ready raft for deployment.

Neil - Prepare Life Raft #2 - Port Side. Ready raft for deployment.

John - Assist gathering Emergency and Survival equipment.

Other Personnel - Don survival suits. Assist as requested by Captain / Crew.