

Locator beacons

EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)

When activated it transmits a message and position 406MHz via satellite to the rescue services, They must be registered to the vessel with the coastguard.

SART (Search And Rescue Radar Transponder)

Shows a position line in the form of arcs or dots on another boat's radar which can be used to home in on the signal for rescue.

Personal AIS

A personal AIS is a personal safety device using the AIS automated tracking system to transmit MOB notifications including GPS coordinates to all AIS equipped vessels within a 4 mile (typical) range.

PLB (Personal Locator Beacon)

A Personal Location Beacon (PLB) is a personal safety device designed to alert search and rescue services and allow them to quickly locate you in the event of an emergency, on land or sea. When activated it transmits a coded message on the 406 MHz distress frequency which is monitored by the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system.

Flares

Red rocket flares

Use for long range distress signaling. Up to 10 miles in daylight, 40 miles at night.

Red hand held flares

Use as a line of sight distress signal by day and night.

Orange smoke flares

Use as a line of sight distress signal for daytime use only.

White warning flares

Use to signal your position at night if there is a risk of collision.

Never fire rockets at helicopters.

Parachute flares should be angled at 45° in cloud or strong wind.

General safety equipment

Life jackets Best are self inflating. Should always check the bottle for rust

Fitting life jackets Not to tight and use the crotch straps

Jack Stays They are usually canvas straps that run along the side decks to allow crew members to clip on.

Drogues Drogues or sea anchors can be used to stop drifting during an engine failure or to slow the boat down in strong winds and conditions.

Radar reflectors A radar reflector should be fitted to all vessels, if practicable. It should be as large as possible and fitted as high as possible to maximise its effectiveness.

