

Document	Brief Emergency Plan for Ships
Issue Version	8 – January 2026
Amendment	0

Emergency On a Jetty or Wharf

Raising the Alarm

Responsibility for raising the alarm will rest with the Master of a vessel and/ or the jetty owner and/ or the Harbour Master depending on the location and circumstances of the incident.

Method of Raising the Alarm

In cases of fire or other emergency the alarm should be raised immediately by:

- By telephone to the Emergency Services (999), Cowes Harbour Office (01983 293952) and Solent Coastguard (02392 552100).
- Plain language message on VHF RT Ch 69 direct to the Harbour Master's office (Cowes Harbour Radio).
- If no reply received by Cowes Harbour Radio, then alert HM Coastguard on VHF Ch 16/ 67 who can contact the Harbour Master by other means.
- Vessels berthed on the Kingston Wharf, and RWE East Cowes, may sound the ship's whistle (a series of prolonged blasts) or sound the ship's fire alarm to alert staff/ depot workers.

Action by Fire and Rescue Service and Ambulance Service

When the Fire and Rescue Service is at the scene of the emergency, the Senior Fire Officer present will assume full responsibility for firefighting and on-board rescue arrangements. Close co-operation will take place between the Senior Officer of the Fire Service and the Master of the vessel and the Harbour Master to allow all risks concerning the vessel's stability to be considered. The consequences of free surface effect must also be considered.

The first ambulance on the scene will take charge of all medical problems and direct instructions to the ship's Master for co-operation as deemed appropriate.

Action by the Wharf Operator

If a potentially dangerous situation has occurred on a ship alongside, the wharf owner/ operator will provide all available assistance to the Master of the vessel.

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Emergency In Cowes Roads or Afloat in Cowes Harbour

Raising the Alarm

The responsibility of raising the alarm will rest with the Master of the vessel concerned.

Method of Raising the Alarm

In cases of fire or other emergency, the alarm should be raised immediately by:

- Plain language message on VHF RT Ch 16/ 67 direct to HM Coastguard.
- On VHF RT Ch 69 Cowes Harbour Radio.

If no reply received from Cowes Harbour Radio, then request on Ch 16 that HM Coastguard contact the Harbour Master or his representative by telephone.

As soon as possible after raising the alarm, an amplifying message should be sent to HM Coastguard and Cowes Harbour Radio giving the following details:

- **Type of emergency:** Fire / explosion / sinking / etc. The extent and possible dangers.
- **Damage:** Extent – effect on stability and seaworthiness.
- **Casualties:** Number - type of injury - total numbers of persons aboard.
- **Oil Spillage:** Any danger of oil spillage should be reported.

Action by Master

Having raised the alarm, the Master will be responsible for taking all immediate steps to safeguard his ship or vessel until assistance arrives. Ships personnel should, if practicable, start fighting the fire with all appropriate appliances available.

The Master will report to the Harbour Office (or Senior Fire Officer if present) the number of persons aboard and the quantities, type and distribution of cargo aboard his vessel. This information will be passed to the Senior Officer of the Fire Service on his arrival.

The Master will inform the Harbour Master as to whether or not he needs the assistance of other vessels, namely tugs or launches.

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Alarm Procedure

By Telephone - Call Emergency Services **telephone 999** for Police / Fire / Ambulance / Coastguard

- Prefix message – 'Cowes Harbour Emergency'/Exact Location of Incident
- Brief description e.g. Fire / Explosion / Collision / Grounding / Pollution Incident
- Give precise instructions as to where their assistance is required e.g. Red Funnel Terminal, West Cowes

By VHF Radio

- VHF Call – **VHF 69** – ‘Cowes Harbour Radio’.
- If there is no response call - **VHF 16 / 67** – ‘HM Coastguard’

Notifying Other Authorities

- **VHF Channel 12** - Vessel Traffic Services (Southampton)
- **VHF Channel 11/ 13** - King's Harbour Master, Portsmouth, Control Tower



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Contact Tables

COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

Office Hours

Cowes Harbour Radio VHF 69

Out of these hours, call HM Coastguard on VHF 16 / 67 or via the telephone number in the table below:

WHARF OPERATORS	
PD Port Services (Medina Wharf)	Tel: 01983 292501 (office) email: pdiow@pdports.co.uk
RWE Generation UK	Tel: 01983 292911 (office)
Isle of Wight Aggregates General Manager	Tel: 01983 295220 (office)
Red Funnel Group	Tel: 02380 019192
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
Southampton Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) - Duty Officer	Tel: 02380 608208 (auto re-direct after office hours) email: southamptonvts@abports.co.uk
KHM Portsmouth – Semaphore Tower	Tel: 02392 723694 (24hr) email: portsmouth@khm.mod.uk
HM Coastguard (Joint Rescue Coordination Centre - Fareham)	Tel: 02392 552100 (24hr) email: zone17@hmccg.gov.uk