



Devon and Severn IFCA

Fire Safety Policy for D&S IFCA Vessels

14th March 2023

Fire Safety Policy for D&S IFCA Vessels

Fire is a hazard that could affect D&S IFCA's seagoing assets, namely its two patrol vessels which are Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs). The consequences of fire include the threat to the life or health and safety of people, damage to or loss of the assets and severe interruption to normal business activities and opportunities.

Management of fire risks will be undertaken in such a way as to prevent or mitigate to a lower risk injury or ill-health to employees or any other persons on-board D&S IFCA's vessels. The aim of this policy and relevant guidance is therefore to provide a fire safety framework which will be implemented to protect lives and protect D&S IFCA's assets. To achieve this D&S IFCA hereby makes the following commitments:

- To identify and implement reasonably practicable control measures to control risks from fire on board D&S IFCA Vessels;
- To understand the sources and risks of fire on board D&S IFCA vessels;
- To provide suitable and sufficient information, instruction and training in firefighting and safety to all sea going officers;
- To prevent outbreaks of fire and mitigating the direct and consequential damage by early detection.
- To follow safety checks and ensure all firefighting equipment is maintained, checked and annually serviced.
- To create and maintain suitable and sufficient fire risk assessments of its offices, stores and vessels.


This policy expands on our general [Health and Safety policies](#), [Employees Safety Handbook](#), [D&S IFCA Safety Services Booklet](#). It should be read in conjunction with [D&S IFCA's Fire Safety Policy](#) and associated risk assessments.

Fire safety whether on board a vessel or in an office has the same primary principles – to prevent or mitigate risk to health to employees, protect lives and D&S IFCA assets. This policy lays out the requirement of the vessel to have firefighting equipment and the procedure in case of a fire.

The aim of this policy is to achieve a 'fire safe' environment for D&S IFCA employees, which will reduce to a minimum the risks of injury, to life, to property, and loss of D&S IFCA's operational capability. All necessary training will be given to meet the Fire Risk Assessments for D&S IFCA's offices, stores and vessels.

Achievement of these commitments will demonstrate compliance with fire safety legislation and current good practice.

Mat Mander has been appointed to take charge of and be responsible for fire safety for D&S IFCA.

Signed Chief Officer

Date16th March 2023.....

D&S IFCA's Patrol Vessels

D&S IFCA has two patrol vessels (PV) both of which are Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs). These are open hulled. The PV David Rowe has a semi-enclosed wheelhouse constructed partly of aluminium with an aluminium frame and a waterproof canopy attached to the frame, which partially protects the crew from the elements. The PV Enforcer is open to the elements.

Both vessels conform to the Work Boat Code MGN 280 and workboat certification issued by the Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) of the United Kingdom Department for Transport. The certificates are issued subject to the vessel remaining structurally as examined, its machinery and equipment being efficiently maintained and manning, complying with the MCA work boat code. Other conditions of certification include that any modifications or damage to the vessel should be reported to Certifying Agency (CA), and is approved as required and considered rectified by the CA as required by the relevant part of the Code, and to operating conditions specific to the vessel and its use.

Both vessels have outboard engines only. No cooking equipment is fitted to the vessels.

Sources of Fire

The main sources of potential fire, on-board D&S IFCA vessels, are electrical equipment and fuel (petrol). Both vessels have electrical consoles housing the ignition and sea-going equipment such as positional equipment, radar, radio etc. Both vessels have batteries for their electrical power source. In the PV David Rowe, the battery is located in the console. In PV Enforcer the battery is located in the stern compartment.

Both vessels run on petrol. The PV David Rowe has integral hull tanks, and the PV Enforcer has a fuel tank within the console. Tanks are filled with petrol before use at a petrol station or fuel barge located in specific ports. Both vessels have fuel shut off valves.

Safety equipment on board each vessel includes flares. There is one flare pack per vessel, each container two orange hand-held smoke flares, six red hand-held flares and four red para rocket flares. These are held in waterproof containers. On the PV Enforcer the container is located in the compartment under the life raft. In PV David Rowe the container is located in the bow compartment. Instructions on use are provided to all officers. Information including expiry dates of flares are kept on a D&S IFCA asset log database.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are the main source of fire prevention on the vessels. D&S IFCA ensures that all D&S IFCA vessels have firefighting equipment in the form of recognised standard fire extinguishers that are maintained annually, and certificates are issued certifying that they are maintained in accordance with BS5306 – Part 3 – 2017. The fire extinguishers are checked and serviced by an external contractor. D&S

IFCA maintains a data base of the date of certification to ensure their annual checks and maintenance.

Fire extinguishers on the D&S IFCA vessels are easily accessible at all times. The PV David Rowe has two fire extinguishers, one is a 2 litre foam extinguisher and the other is a 1 litre dry powder extinguisher. Both are located beneath the console, easily accessible and the location of the extinguishers is marked with a fire extinguisher sign. The PV Enforcer has two 2 litre dry powder extinguishers, which are located beneath the seat locker behind an easily accessible hatch. Both D&S IFCA vessels have two collapsible plastic buckets.

Employee Training

All sea-going members of staff, on-board the D&S IFCA's Patrol vessels, survey vessels and fishing vessels, are trained in firefighting and prevention under the full requirements of the STW95 'at sea' training.

A database of STCW training undertaken and dates of expiry of certification is kept to monitor and ensure all Officers are up to date with their training needs.

All officers on board the D&S IFCA patrol vessels are given a safety brief which informs them of the location of the firefighting equipment. Officers use IAuditor to undertake checks on equipment including safety equipment on each day of vessel deployment.

Fire Procedures on Board D&S IFCA's Vessels:

- Once fire is identified raise the alarm;
- Slow the vessel and stop;
- A member of the crew should use the VHF to issue a distress call. A 'May Day' call should be issued as there is potential for endangerment to life;
- Whilst the distress call is issued another member of the crew should use the dry powder fire extinguishers (for fuel and electrical fires) and put out the fire where possible and without leading to risk to health and life;
- Remove heat and fuel from fire if possible;
- Prepare to abandon ship and abandon ship if fire cannot be safely contained.