

## **At Sea Training Using the *Auxiliary Sail Vessel Operations* Textbook**

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Following are suggestions for drills/lectures/practice sessions that one could do on board. Some could be done alongside, some underway. The important point is that these are suggestions for training your *crew*, vs. your students, although of course any of them could be done for both, either separately or simultaneously. By doing them incrementally you can do one or more drills any time you can carve out an hour or two from your busy schedule.

### **Alongside (1-2 hours)**

- Cleat & belay; knots, bends and hitches; coil & stow
- Handling lines under strain, surge, slack, stopper, manage a gang heaving a line

### **Underway sailing drills (1-2 hours)**

Best if you can do this in a smallish vessel first, then translate to the bigger one  
Rotate people through all positions (helm, various sail handling positions, con...etc.)  
Don't try to go anywhere, just around in circles of decreasing size

Ch. 5, Trim & Balance; Ch. 6, Basic Maneuvers

- Mostly balance... using sails to assist with turning
- Get vessel stalled so sails are required to turn (underway harassment)
- Tack, jibe in increasingly tight spaces (how tight depends on your vessel)

Ch. 7, Advanced Maneuvers (2-4-6 hours)

- Mooring, anchoring (docking?)

Ch. 8, Heaving-To (1-2 hours)

Ch. 9 MOB (1-2 hours)

- Do recovery under sail or with power assist
- Controlled slow approach partially heave-to
- Heave-to w/ MOB at lee rail

### **Classroom-style drills, exercises (aboard or ashore:**

Ch. 12, Grounding, Flooding, Fire & Abandon Ship (1-2 hours)

- Grounding: Work out & talk through scenarios to lighten or trim ship
- Flooding: DC Trainer techniques (access to small vessel DC Trainer?)
- Fire & Abandon Ship Drills: as usual, but add in escape from below

Ch. 13, Meteorology (1 hour)

- Plotting forecast positions on OPC Surface Analysis charts
- Identifying wind dir. & speed from isobars and gradient

- ID dir. of movement of surface lows according to 500 mb maps

Ch. 14, Heavy Weather Sailing (1-2 hours)

- Drill reefing
- Setting trysail (incl. tacking and jibing)

Ch. 15, Hurricane Avoidance (1 hour)

- Plotting forecast positions and size of hurricane (use archived or real-time storms)
- Plotting 1-2-3 Rule

Ch. 16, Emergency Helicopter Operations (1/2 hour)

- Walk-through & discussion of scenario

Ch. 20, BRM & Risk Assessment (1/2 hour)

- Conduct a formal Risk Assessment of the coming departure or other evolution

Ch. 21 Safety Aloft (2 hours)

- Develop and conduct an aloft rescue drill (carefully)

Basically you can take almost any chapter and work it into a drill. The important point is to do it while rotating your crew through different positions as time and experience allows. The more different roles they play the better.