

HAND INJURIES

Scenario / Background
Hand injuries are a high risk on any vessel and can result in anything from a minor to a major injury. For this example, let's take an incident resulting in a deep laceration to the hand where underlying structures are visible.
Pre-activity considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Think about resources, personnel and skill sets needed.- Who oversees communications? What needs to be communicated and to whom?- Who will take charge of the medical situation? Does that person have other important roles in an emergency?- Have you ever run a drill for this?- What do you need to do first? What is your priority, medically speaking?- Where and how will the casualty be moved, if able to move?- What monitoring will you do and how often?- At what point will you consider calling ashore / telemedicine for support?- Decide whether to Medevac (how depends on location) or remain onboard.
Equipment
Follow the vessel procedure for rescue and a stretcher party if needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Personal and Rescue PPE.- Stretcher / casualty handling correctly graded for the intended use.- Medical kit / care needed - consider tourniquet, bandages, wound management and wound closure.- Safe location to take casualty.- Onboard / shoreside communications.
Brief
Discuss the vessel procedure for medical care and the medical algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Danger, Response, Shout for help (raise the alarm)- A – is their airway clear?- B – are they breathing?- C¹ – any catastrophic haemorrhage?- C² – circulation.- D – mobility considerations.- E – environment and exposure – keep warm, check for other injuries.

Note: This card and briefing sheet is intended for guidance only and in no way passes liability to any member of CHIRP or the Superyacht Training Group for its content and the procedures within.

Consider requirements for ongoing monitoring and care.

- Use the Ship Captain's Medical Guide together with vessel protocols / procedures. Refer to Maritime Telemedical Assistance Service TMAS / shoreside support.
- What stretchers and casualty handling equipment do you have on board and who knows how to use it correctly? Ensure you follow manufacturer guidance for use.
- Your level of training depends on your role and position. This means there will be a range of medical skills, confidence and ability onboard. Discuss how to work to your strengths to manage the incident.
- Regular drills and onboard training are recommended to train with your crew and your equipment, in your environment.

Questions to confirm learning

- Was the medical care appropriate and effective?
- What equipment was needed? Did everyone know how to find and use it?
- What radio channels should be used in an emergency?
- What communications are needed onboard and to shoreside?
- What are the Medevac procedures?

What if's / Emergency considerations

- What needs to happen to make the area safe?
- What will you do if the casualty can't self-mobilise?
- If you got something wrong, how can you correct this for next time?
- What will happen if the casualty deteriorates?
- What if you are in a location where help is a long distance away?

Post activity debrief points

- What went well and what didn't?
- What did we learn? What would we do differently next time?
- Has the equipment been stored correctly and kit restocked and tagged?
- How is everyone feeling? Remind them that how they are feeling is normal. It's natural to feel different after an incident and it can take a few days to recover.
- Make sure crew know who to speak to if they need peer or professional support after an incident.