

Bridge Memorandum #32: Drills now scheduled in Helm

Starting this month, all drills will be scheduled in Helm. This serves two purposes. The first is, the drills are being overlooked or not done on schedule on some vessels. Secondly, we have been trying to simplify information that is duplicated across multiple systems by moving the majority of it to Helm, eliminating the need for most paper tracking systems.

As a result, the Quarterly Drill Tracking sheets are now obsolete. Helm will create tasks for when the drills are due so you no longer have to do that by hand. Please delete the QMI Drill tracking sheets from your computers.

We understand that it can be challenging to schedule these when you are running 24 hr operations and have people on multiple sleep schedules. However, the drills are required by regulatory agencies, are a key part of safety preparedness and are NOT optional.

Try to schedule them during a shift change and you may combine several drills into a shared scenario to minimize disruptions. (The only restriction is the USCG requirement that the Abandon Ship and Fire Drills cannot be combined.)

ALL persons aboard must participate in drills unless specifically excused by the captain ahead of time.

Remember the whole point of drills is to inspect and test emergency equipment, ensure non-crew know where to go and what to do when they hear an alarm and prepare the crew to confidently fulfill their responsibilities in a timely manner during emergency situations.



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