

APRIL 09

BOSN LOCKER

COMMUNICATIONS AND TOWING EVOLUTIONS

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Have you ever really looked at the notes and warnings in the Seamanship manual, there is a theme that everyone should know by now and that is..."Communicate!" Take a look at some of the notes found in Ch 17 on towing evolutions:

Throughout the entire towing evolution, open communication between the coxswain and crew and towed vessel is absolutely necessary for safety.

A boat crew's teamwork, communications, and experience are key to a safe, successful approach.

This period of pre-tow, on-scene analysis is when crew experience and judgment on both vessels must mesh. Discuss concerns before directing action.

The coxswain must let crew members know before making correcting maneuvers so that they can tend lines and ready themselves.

Whenever the coxswain directs an action, a crew member must take that action and reply that the action has been taken. Whenever a crew member advises the coxswain of status or action, the coxswain must acknowledge same.

So the next time you are underway, PRACTICE and make communicating, repeating commands, and discussions an active part of everyday patrols.