

## Helicopter rescue from a sailboat

In case of Emergency, call “*Sweden Rescue*” on VHF channel 16 and/or call 112 on your phone - ask for “*Sea rescue*”

### State your:

- VHF Call Sign
- Your boat name
- Position in latitude and longitude
- Kind of emergency

Stay on channel 16 unless you are told to use another channel

A Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter may come and assist you if:

- a person onboard is severely ill or injured
- a person is lost overboard
- your boat is sinking or has to be abandoned for any reason



Swedish SAR helicopters have the call sign “*Lifeguard*” 001 to 007

### While waiting for the helicopter:

- Bring down the sails or at least reduce the sail area substantially
- Secure ALL loose equipment; sails, ropes, booms, sprayhood etc.
- If possible, remove any backstay
- If possible, use the engine or a sea anchor to keep the boat heading into the wind
- Prepare the person(s) to be hoisted: Tighten clothes, bring id-card and any vital medicine, and wear a life jacket (preferably non-automatic)

## When the helicopter arrives

A helicopter is extremely noisy and produces a very strong downwind

If the helicopter has problems locating you, use a flashlight aiming at the helicopter, use orange smoke or flare, inform the helicopter on the radio if they are approaching you or leaving you, describe your boat. The helicopter will try to reach you from behind, from leeward, and hoist from your cockpit or any open space on deck.

**If redeemed necessary by the helicopter crew**, be prepared to lower the rescue person into a dinghy/life raft, or directly into the water, to be picked up, since that may be preferable for the safety of the operation.



The helicopter may start by sending down a tag line (trail line). When the tag line has touched the deck, hold on to it but do not anchor it. The helicopter tag line is used to guide the surface swimmer or a stretcher when hoisted from/to the helicopter. With the tag line, you can help the rescue swimmer to reach the deck safely. Once the rescue swimmer is on board, he/she will give you further instructions. Do not question the instructions given by the rescue swimmer.

### ***Be aware!***

The tag line may be slightly charged by static electricity. Let the tag line touch the hull or the water before grabbing it. Keep the tag line tight, but NEVER fasten it to your boat. Make sure the tag line is not entangled anywhere (mast, rig, etc.).