

		OPERATION PROCEDURES
29		PYROTECHNICS

These devices are only to be used on the direction of the Helm and with the agreement of the controlling Coastguard station. Strict radio procedures apply. Only crew who have undertaken the Sidmouth Lifeboat pyrotechnic training are authorised to launch these devices. The only exception is when the person is under direct supervision of a trained crewmember.

When not to use them

- Must not be without authority of Coastguard
- Must not be used in event of any aerial activity. (Helicopters, planes etc)

Stowage

- Stowed in the locker under the central seat

Procedure

- Only remove flare from locker when permission for use has been granted
- Take position behind crew (to protect their vision) and on the lee sponson
- Check for any aerial activity
- Cut engines if possible to assist in hearing any casualty response
- Contact Coastguard to inform of readiness to launch
- A 5 second countdown on radio will be made terminated with words “white illuminant has been deployed, stand by”
- The tube should be pointed vertically in calm conditions and slightly **down** wind in a breeze (the device will “seek” the wind).
- It is essential that the illuminant reaches the maximum height to ensure that the maximum effective burn time is achieved
- Crew member should avoid watching the launch and maintain a watch on their designated sector to ensure best use of the light
- When the light has finished the coastguard should be informed with the phrase “the first white illuminant has extinguished” followed by “nothing seen” or “standby” in the event of a potential sighting.
- Used tube(s) to be stowed in the foot well
- If further illumination is required the procedure is repeated

In the case of misfire

Dispose of the cartridge over board. Do not dispose of a live detonator over board. A completely dud flare should be tied to the port side of the A-frame for disposal on return to station. Take extreme care as the flare could activate at any moment.

On return to station

- Take the spent tubes and caps to the boathouse flare locker for disposal
- Always ensure that the flares are replaced from stock