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Local procedure

USE OF SWIMMING LINES

- If a crew member is to be put ashore, onto rocks, a vessel or to reach a casualty where the lifeboat cannot access, or for any other reason a swimming line must be attached to them.
- A large loop tied with a bowline should be put over the head and under one arm before beginning to swim. The loop should not be small enough to inhibit the use of the lifejacket, should it need to be inflated, or large enough to fall off.
- A second crew member should feed the line away from the lifeboat ensuring the line does not get close to the props; keep hold of the line and watch the swimmer at all times. The line must not be tied off.
- The helm should hold station throughout and let his crew know if any movement of the lifeboat is necessary.

Once ashore the crew can tie off the line if necessary.

- When the crew ashore is ready they should raise one arm to indicate that readiness (perhaps with casualty) to return to the lifeboat. The crew aboard holding the line should pull the swimmer back to the lifeboat at a steady suitable pace using a hand over hand method.
- If a second crew member needs to go ashore, consider using the same line with buddy-line attached.
- The crew aboard the lifeboat must take care of loose line on deck at all times. They should also know where the knives are should a line need to be cut.