



# Volunteer Marine Rescue Brisbane Inc

## Providing a Safer Marine Environment for Our Community

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### Launching Sandgate 1 (if unable to float)

#### 1.0 Introduction

The following sets out the procedures to be adopted when entering the boatshed and launching our rescue vessel Sandgate 1 when there is insufficient water depth to allow the vessel to "float off".

#### 2.0 References

Nil

#### 3.0 Detailed Information

##### 3.1 Opening Boatshed

- a) Using the key provided, unlock the small entry door which is located at the downstream side of the boatshed and towards the creek bank. This door opens from left to right (hinged on right). Swing open and secure in the open position using the small chain and hook provided. If lighting is required, the light switch is located just inside the door and on the left hand side of the door frame.
- b) Look to the two main boat entrance doors to the left as you enter and release the large barrel bolts that secure the doors closed and swing the doors outwards and hold open using the barrel bolts into a ground pipe. NOTE: if these doors are not swung and held right open the boat cradle will not clear the entrance.

##### 3.2 Preparing for Launch

- a) Take a close look at the winch gear mounted in front of the boat cradle and against the wall of the boatshed and familiarise yourself with the operation. Power is supplied to the winch control from the GPO on the post above the winch. The winch control box has an "arrow up" (winching up), an "arrow down" button (lowering into the water) and a red emergency "stop" button. If the "stop" button has been depressed, it must be rotated to release before the winch will work.
- b) The duty Master and part of the crew may board the vessel while in the boatshed and carry out the pre-departure checks as set out in the SOP **VES010**.

##### 3.3 Launching

- a) When ready to launch, instruct all other persons present in the boatshed to stand clear then press/switch the "down" button on one of the above mentioned controls. The cradle, and the vessel, will slowly move down the rails and into the water. Release the "down" button/switch when the cradle comes against the stops at the end of the rail line.

**NOTE:** The cradle **MUST** be down to the stops. If it is a particularly low tide and the water level, at this point, is not covering the rear beam of the cradle **THEN ABORT THE LAUNCHING** and you have no option but to wait for the tide to rise.



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- b) If the conditions of **3.3 a)** above are met, lower the motors and carry out the motor start-up as per normal procedures. Then when ready, engage forward gear on both motors and apply enough throttle to take the tension out of the two securing ropes. Maintain this power until your crew members have untied the securing ropes from the deck cleats and hung them (using the spliced eye) onto the hooks provided on the rear locating posts of the cradle and loop up any loose rope onto the same hooks. When the crew has given the "all clear", bring the motors back into neutral and the vessel should slide off. If the vessel does not slide off of its own accord engage reverse gear on both motors and apply enough power to drag the vessel off.

**SAFETY POINT: DO NOT ALLOW ANY CREW MEMBER TO UNTIE THE SECURING ROPES UNTIL THE TENSION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THEM.**

- c) Reverse the vessel in a straight line towards the centre of the Creek before attempting to turn (this manoeuvre will ensure you will be well clear of the slipway). A crew member will have been instructed to return the cradle to the boatshed using the controls in the boatshed.
- d) As there will be other expensive equipment stored in the boatshed, all doors must be secured until your return.

#### 4.0 Summary

Adhering to the above instructions will ensure safe operation of the methods and equipment provided for the launching of our main rescue vessel.

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