

Hey! I can smell gas!

Turn off the gas isolation valve and open windows, hatches or doors to ventilate the area as much as possible. Turn the engine off, and put out naked flames, cookers, pilot lights and cigarettes. Evacuate the boat if possible.

Don't switch anything electrical on or off, including lights and the bilge pump, until you're sure the gas has dispersed. Find the problem and get it put right before you turn the gas on again.

Fire!

Act quickly - fire spreads rapidly! Alert everyone on board to move to a safe location and evacuate if possible. Call the fire service if you can.

A fire blanket is designed for use on cooker fires and the fire extinguishers for other fires. Use these to help you escape or to fight a fire if you feel competent. Make sure the equipment is maintained in good condition and ready for use at all times.

If the fire is in the engine space, don't open the main access - the air will only feed the fire. Some boats have a fixed fire extinguisher in the engine space, which is activated automatically or with a manual control outside the compartment. Failing this, you might be able to discharge a fire extinguisher through a small opening in the engine access.

If someone's clothes are alight, quickly lie them face down so that the flames rise away from their face. Smother the flames with a blanket or wet jacket, laid away from their face.