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JANUARY 2011 · \$5.99 US · \$7.00 CAN

A SOURCE INTERLINK MEDIA PUBLICATION

HOW TO
MAKE
A GOOD
BOAT EVEN
BETTER.

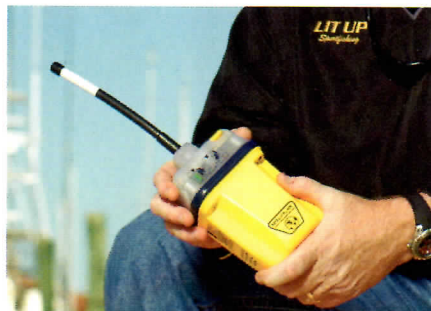
YARD

LIFE-SAVING GEAR
TIP OF THE MONTH
SAFETY CHECKLIST
PROFESSOR DIESEL

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!



1 Commercial-grade PFDs are a bit bulky but offer more flotation.



2 This 406-MHz EPIRB can be affixed to the boat or carried in a ditch bag.



3 On smaller boats a valise-type liferaft can be easily stowed and deployed.

The Ultimate Upgrade

Disaster struck at seven o'clock on a wintry North Florida morning. Tim Martin and his buddies were idling along in Martin's seasoned battlewagon, 30 miles offshore, having deployed lures for the early wahoo bite. "Hey," yelled Adrian Heilman from the cockpit as one of the exhaust ports burped black smoke. From the helm station on the flying bridge, Martin turned to look and heard Heilman's voice again, only this time from the saloon. "Fire!" Heilman yelled, standing over an open engine-room hatch belching greasy plumes.

Martin's a safety-conscious guy. Just before his VHF went dead he'd fired off a MAYDAY call, although he wasn't sure anyone had heard it. Then he descended to the cockpit, closed the fuel shut-off

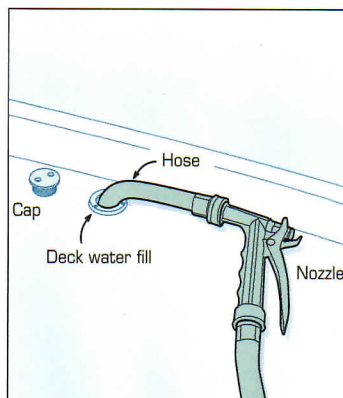
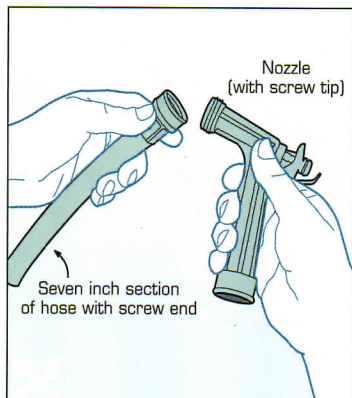
valves, and took a moment to think. He had five passengers onboard, one a first-time boater and another, a fellow with a spinal injury. The boat was most likely going to sink—the smoke was intensifying fast—and at 63°F the water was frigid. Martin looked at his watch: 7:12, only a dozen minutes into a horrific, wholly unexpected affair.

Preparedness hallmarked what Martin did next. He initiated an emergency abandon-ship routine he'd been doggedly rehearsing for years with crew members (no matter how experienced and/or expert) before leaving the dock. It started with PFDs—Martin made sure every guy onboard was wearing one of the comparatively expensive but highly buoyant commercial-grade PFDs he favors over cheaper Type II near-shore models. Then there was the ditch bag—from a dedicated spot by the saloon door he pulled a water-resistant, large (29"x10"x15"), faded-yellow RapidDitch bag purchased from ACR Electronics years before. There was an ACR 406-MHz EPIRB in one of the outside pockets, a

GARMIN'S TIP OF THE MONTH

RON SCHAPER OF CORAL SPRINGS, FL

Pistol-grip-type hose nozzles are handy as heck for washing down a boat but the water pressure they typically produce makes it necessary to hold them in place while filling a water tank. Simply attach a short (seven inches is about right) hose to the end of the nozzle and it'll stay in place, thus allowing you to fill the tank and do other things at the same time.



Contest Guidelines

For your chance to win a **Garmin VHF 100** fixed-mount radio, send your best maintenance tip to **Capt. Bill Pike** at bill.pike@pmymag.com. One winner will be drawn from all entries each month. No purchase necessary.



Garmin's Oregon VHF 100

Illustrations by Mirotoart.com. Photos by Cy Cry