

# **SAFETY BOAT HANDLING**

The following guidance, which is based on RYA training material, sets out good practice and the priorities for safety boat crews who are faced with people in the water:

- **Practice close-quarters boat handling to gain familiarity with the safety boat.**
- **Always wear the kill cord.**
- **Attend every capsized within 3 minutes if only to check the crew are safe and establish you are not needed.**
- **In multiple incidents, attend to all people before dealing with any craft.**
- **When involved with one boat, keep a lookout for other incidents that may take priority.**
- **Help dinghy crews help themselves before taking over.**
- **Prompt action “walking the mast up” may be all that is required.**
- **Approach people in the water from downwind (ie safety boat is head to wind) to control speed effectively.**
- **Cut the engine when dealing with people in the water. Use the oars if necessary.**
- **If you are unsure about any of the above, ask before your next turn of duty!**