

IAATO Advice on Shore Stranding Equipment for Vessel Operations

(revised 2024)

The following is intended to provide a suggested guide for stranding equipment. Operators will need to tailor the actual equipment carried and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that include risk assessment and taking into consideration the operational and environmental conditions expected for their individual operations.

While minimal shelter and emergency food supply should be available for all, additional equipment should also be considered for a percentage of hypothermic patients (e.g. should a small boat load of passengers get wet).

Consideration should be given to carrying stranding equipment during small boat cruises on a case-by-case basis. Stranding gear should be packed in waterproof containers / bags to ensure contents are dry and usable in event of an emergency.

Field Staff should be prepared to be stranded ashore whenever conducting activities off ship in the Antarctic and South Georgia. This preparation should include keeping extra warm gear as needed in personal kits.

This list does not consider medical equipment, which should be the responsibility of the onshore medic, nor does it take into account standard emergency equipment usually carried onboard small boats (e.g. flares, throw lines, radio's etc.)

Inventory of Shore Stranding Equipment and medical equipment should be conducted at regular intervals throughout the season to familiarize all staff and ensure all equipment is in good working order.

Equipment	Quantity
Storm/ Emergency shelter (Vango or similar) – or tents.	Sufficient for maximum number ashore*
Thermal protective aids / space blankets or similar	Sufficient for maximum number ashore*
Sleeping bags	Sufficient for at least a few hypothermic patients
Foam sleeping mats (or similar insulating ground cover).	Sufficient for one between two
Shovels	Two
Toilet paper (sealed in zip lock bags)	Sufficient for maximum number ashore* for at least 24 hours
Emergency food ¹	Sufficient for maximum number ashore* for at least 24 hours
Water or water purification tablets	Sufficient for maximum number ashore* for at least 24 hours
1 litre water containers (if using water purification tablets)	Sufficient for maximum number ashore* for at least 24 hours
Strong plastic sacks for waste.	Sufficient for maximum number ashore* for at least 24 hours
Whistle	Two
Signal Mirror	One
Tarps for shelter in case of rain	Addition to group shelters
Hand sanitizer	Sufficient for maximum number ashore* to sanitize their hands 2-4 times
Head lamps / torches & spare batteries or ability to recharge	One per guide on shore (high enough lumen for navigating small boat safely is 1000+ lumen)
Marine VHF radio OR spare VHF radio battery	One or Two
Warm hats (e.g. toques, beanies, etc.)	10
Wool socks	10 – 20 pairs
Repair kit/material for shelters	One per kit

* Total passengers, guides, and crew likely to be ashore at any given time

¹ Depending on expected operation, energy bars may be sufficient. Alternatively hot meal kits are available. The best are those where you add a small amount of water for a chemical reaction, which warms the meals up – the remaining heat pockets can double as hot water bottles to help warm hypothermic patients.