SEASCOVERY

LIFE-SAVING SIGNALS

Answering signals made by life-saving stations or maritime rescue units when signals are seen from a ship or a person in distress

HAND SIGNALS	LIGHT SIGNALS	OTHER SIGNALS	MEANING	
may be intercharged	Orange smoke signal	Exploding white star consisting of 3 single signals fired at about 1-minute intervals.	You are seen. Help is coming. (Repetition of such signals shall have the same meaning.)	
These	White star rocket consisting of 3 single signals fired at about 1-minute intervals.			
Landing signals for the guid	ance of small boats or person	in distress (day and night)		
Vertical movement of a white flag, the arms, or white light or flare	Green star fired.	Morse code letter K given by light or sound signal apparatus	This is the best place to land.	
Indicate direction by placing	g a steady white light or flare	at a lower level and in line with t	he obeserver	
Horizontal movement of a white flag, the arms fullt extended, or white light or flare	Red star fired.	Morse code letter S given by light or sound signal apparatus	Landing here is highly dangerous.	
1. Horizontal movement of a white flag, light or flare 2. Placing of flag, light or flare on the ground 3. Carrying a second flag, light or flare in the direction to be taken	 Red star fired vertically and White star fired pointing to a better landing place 	Morse code letter S followed by a. R if a better landing place is to the right of the direction of approach b. L if a better landing place is to the left of the direction of approach	Landing here is highly dangerous. Go in the direction indicated.	

Surface-to-air visual signals Communication from surface craft or survivors to an aircraft

Display the appropriate signal on the deck or on the ground.				
Message	ICAO*/IAMSAR** visual signal			
Require assistance	V			
Require medical assistance	Х			
No or negative	N			
Yes or affirmative	Υ			
Proceed in this direction	↑			

^{*}ICAO Annex 12 Search and Rescue

Reply from an aircraft observing the above signals from a surface craft or survivors

Drop a message or	Rock the wings (during daylight) or	Flash the landing or navigation lights on and off twice (during darkness) or	or Flash Morse code signal T or R or	Use any other suitable signal	Message understood
Fly straight and level without rocking wings or	Flash Morse code signal RPT or	Use any other suitable signal			Message not understood (repeat)

^{**} International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual, Vol. III