

## **Report of incident**

The race yacht 'Miss Scarlet' was being delivered from Auckland, New Zealand some 2,000 nm to Cairns, Queensland by Delivery Skipper Larry Jamieson. One crew member, Simone Hill, was aboard.

The yacht had been sailed from Auckland on a non-stop seven-day voyage to Southport, Queensland. We were cleared in by Australian Border Force and Biosecurity. Once relevant paperwork had been received, we departed on Friday 9 February, 2024 at approximately 1100.

On Saturday 10 February 2024, at approximately 1930, while Simone was on watch, an alarm sounded indicating low voltage.

I woke immediately and sighted white smoke coming from the rear of the engine compartment beside the electric breaker panel.

I went on deck to put the throttle into neutral to turn off engine. Simone activated the fire extinguisher in the galley as the cabin filled with acrid smoke.

From deck I could see flames through the small galley hatch.

I moved immediately to deploy the life raft into the water from the aft deck while Simone grabbed the handheld VHF and gave Mayday and GPS coordinates on Channel 16 from the screen on deck.

I was burnt on the back of both my legs as flames engulfed the whole boat.

We both abandoned ship, swam to the life raft and cut the tether with a knife.

The boat was fully engulfed in flames within minutes and sank once it burnt to the waterline.

In the life raft Simone was able to activate her Personal Locator Beacon to AMSA at approximately 2010.

She continued to make Mayday calls on both Channel 16 and 13 (Gladstone VTS).

The CPA Rescue Helicopter 3 was above us and in communications via VHF Channel 16 at approximately 2230 advising a vessel was on the way with an ETA of one hour.

We were requested to fire a flare - Simone deployed a parachute then red smoke flare.

We were picked up via the 'Reef Resilience', a Queensland Marine Parks vessel working at Wistari Reef.

At approximately 2340 they deployed their RIB and picked us up from the life raft and returned us to their vessel.

From there they motored for approximately one hour to Heron Island to meet the helicopter & paramedic for assessment.

We were loaded into the helicopter on Heron Island - Simone seated and myself in a stretcher on the floor - and flown for approximately one hour to the Rockhampton base.

We were driven to Rockhampton Hospital by the paramedic and admitted.

Some relevant images below.

I am happy to answer any further questions regarding the incident.

Best regards,

Larry Jamison  
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The yacht engulfed in flames taken from the life raft - time stamped 1939.



The smoke flare seen from the helicopter.



The Reef Resilience vessel.



The crew of Reef Resilience.



Simone in the helicopter.



Larry in stretcher on floor of helicopter.



The crew of CPA Rescue 3 back at base in Rockhampton.

