



Making Way For 35

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Homeland Security

Official Publication of
Division 35, Ninth District
(Western Region)



Division Calendar available on the Web site:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=095-35>

DIVISION COMMANDER
Melvyn Marcus

DIVISION VICE COMMANDER
Jen Hampton

July 2016

New Operations Training Officer

CWO Wesley Haslam has relieved CWO Brad Hinken as the 9th Western Region Operations Training Officer. CWO Brad Hinken will be assisting CWO Haslam with the transition for a short time. Office telephone numbers remain unchanged.

Significant Events for the Auxiliary

- July 8-10: Gary Air Show
- July 27-30: Tall Ships
- Aug 11-14: Chicago Air Show

In Memoriam



Commodore Christine Tamani
passed over the bar on 6/12

Commodore Harry "Ed" Ross
passed over the bar on 6/11

Fair winds and smooth seas

Arguably the Auxiliary's Most Valuable Service

As the recreational public puts their boats in the water for the summer, the Coast Guard Auxiliary begins another year of Vessel Safety Checks. A good VSC has been accurately described as a "personalized one-lesson boating safety course". The Vessel Examiner has the opportunity to answer any questions that may be important to the boater.



In addition to verifying compliance with federal and state regulations, the VE has the opening to introduce a number of safety concerns: proper use of the marine radio, float plans, America's Waterway Watch, aquatic invasive species, safe boat handling, trip planning and fuel conservation, and many more topics (including those listed on the ANSC 7012 VSC form). We often have the opportunity to educate an entire family about boating safety at once.

Vessel Examiners seldom see how their efforts directly influence boating safety – but their efforts undoubtedly prevent accidents and injuries in recreational boating!

[Many thanks to Michael Scott, VE, SO-PA of Division 31 for providing this article]

Coast Guard created a safety zone around Navy Pier in Chicago for America's Cup races

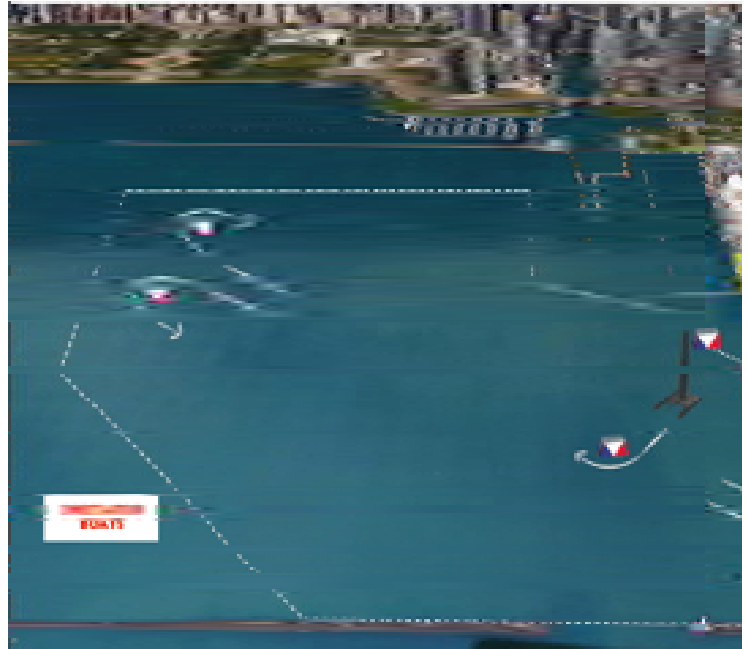


CHICAGO — The Coast Guard established a safety zone area in Lake Michigan around Navy Pier in Chicago for the America's Cup World Series races Friday through Sunday, June 9-11.

The Coast Guard safety zone was in effect from noon until 4 p.m. daily during this event to protect vessels and people from the potential hazards associated with a sailing competition.

The zone runs from Navy Pier on the north to the Monroe Harbor Entrance on the south, all inside the outer Chicago Harbor break wall. Vessels will not be allowed to enter, transit through, or anchor within this safety zone without the permission of the Coast Guard captain of the port or a designated representative.

Specifically, the safety zone encompassed all waters of Lake Michigan and the Chicago Harbor bounded by a line drawn from the east side of the Jardine Water Filtration Plant, then east to the Chicago Harbor break wall, then south along the break wall, then west to 41°52.184' N, 87°36.390' W, then north to 41°53.132' N, 87°36.398' W, then northeast to 41°53.206' N, 87°36.110' W, then northeast to 41°53.314' N, 87°35.978' W, then back to the point of origin at 41°53.693' N, 87°36.141' W (NAD 83).



More information on viewing the race from a boat is available in the Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series [On-Water Guide](#).

Boaters who watched the America's Cup races from the water were reminded to wear proper fitting life jackets and carry all required safety gear. In 2015, 85 percent of all fatal boating accident victims were not wearing a proper life jacket.

Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Operating a vessel with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher is illegal in Illinois. The Coast Guard reminds all boaters to exercise extreme caution when consuming alcohol on the water by designating a sober driver and drinking responsibly. All boaters are reminded to maintain full situational awareness throughout the event.

In the event of an emergency the Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan Command Center can be reached on VHF-FM channel 16 or at 414-747-7190.

The race area was within the safety zone defined by the stake boats, and spectator vessels could not enter the race area.

The race area was not fixed and was adjusted within the safety zone based on the wind conditions for each day's race. The stake boats were adjusted to mark the boundaries of the race area while spectator vessels were allowed to watch the race along the boundary. America's Cup provided race-related information and commentary on VHF-FM marine channels.

[Information from Coast Guard News and the race sponsor.]

How Many Exams are Expected?

When I joined the Auxiliary in 1969 and first qualified as a Courtesy Motorboat Examiner, we were required to complete ten (10) examinations annually to maintain currency. The CME (later Courtesy Marine Examination) was more comprehensive than the VSC, because it included several safety standards (such as anchor and line) in addition to legal standards to receive the CME decal.

Our Flotilla CME Staff Officer made it clear to everybody who qualified as a Vessel Examiner that a *minimum* of twenty- five (25) CMEs were expected annually. He told us we had to perform this number to remain proficient and support boating safety as we pledged as new members.

Of course, not everybody is suited to performing VSCs. The National expectations in those years were that (on the average) 1 out of 3 members would be Vessel Examiners.

Submitted by Michael Scott, VE, SO-PB 31

Coast Guard Support for VSC Programs


We know the dangers of letting the public believe that a VSC decal on their boat will excuse them from a Coast Guard law-enforcement boarding. Obvious violations observed by Coast Guard Boarding Officers will cause the vessel to be stopped for boarding. A VSC decal is not a “get out of trouble” pass for anyone.

Any boater who has passed a *proper* Vessel Safety Check will have a good knowledge of the equipment that will be examined during a boarding. Since they had this required equipment when they received the VSC decal, they should not have any problem completing a Coast Guard boarding rapidly.

Some Coast Guard units go further to support VSCs. Boarding Officers at some units may suggest to new boaters they encounter that a Vessel Safety Check could be a valuable learning opportunity. Flotilla staff have provided contact cards (such as those available on the National web site at the web link below).

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=v-dept&category=job-aid-kits>

U.S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary



For a Free Vessel
Safety Check and
Decal Contact: Your
Name Vessel
Examiner Flotilla
??=??
City, State Phone:
111 111 1111
name@provider

The back of the business card has a brief summary of information that will be included in the VSC.

**Seal Of
Safety
Check
List**

Do You Have Correct ...

- Numbers/Registration
- Life Jackets
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Arrester
- Sound Producing Device
- Navigation Lights
- Visual Distress Signals
- Sanitation Device
- No Unsafe Conditions
- Other Legal Requirements
- Fuel System
- Electrical Installation
- Galley Installation

**US Coast Guard
Auxiliary**

Working together in this way, the active duty and Auxiliary team up to promote boating safety on our waters.

BOATER SAFETY COURSES

http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php

Our courses provide instruction to boaters at all levels. Our classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors committed to the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard.

About Boating Safely - An introductory course to give students the knowledge needed to obtain a boat safety certification in many states. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete About Boating Safely.

Boating Skills and Seamanship - Our most in depth course designed for both the experienced and the novice boater.

Sailing Skills and Seamanship - Designed to prepare a sailor with the basic information needed to operate sailboats under a variety of conditions.

Suddenly In Command - A 2-4 hour boating safety primer is designed for those not generally at the helm, designed to help you to be prepared with the basics in case of an emergency.

How to Read a Nautical Chart - This course will provide the navigator with the knowledge to interpret the chart's contents to navigate safely to their destination and return to port. Text and training chart included.

GPS For Mariners:

Designed for those desiring to learn fundamental nautical GPS skills. Basic navigation skills are included to the extent required to understand GPS operations.

What you should know before you go: A Paddlers Guide to Safety - Safety basics for new paddlers, developed by the Auxiliary and the American Canoe Association.

Modern Marine Navigation - This is an on-line self-study course, produced with BoatUS. It covers traditional and electronic navigation and includes links to many useful websites, downloads and videos.

USCG BOATING SAFETY APP

<http://www.uscg.mil/mobile/>

FEATURES OF THE APP INCLUDE

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safety check
- Check your safety equipment
- File a float plan
- Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- Report a hazard
- Report pollution
- Report suspicious activity
- Request emergency assistance

As location services are enabled, users can receive the latest weather reports from the closest NOAA weather buoys as well as reports on the location of a hazard on the water.

The app also features an Emergency Assistance button which, as locations services enabled, will call the closest USCG command center.

The app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio which the Coast Guard strongly recommends for all boaters to have aboard. The app was designed to provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users.

The app is self-contained. Information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not track your location unless the app is actively being used.



A POCKET GUIDE TO ENHANCED VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

PROVIDED BY
Vessel Examination
and Partner Visitation Directorate

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION TOPICS

As a Vessel Examiner, you are well trained in the actual examination process related to the VSC. This guide is not intended as a training tool but is simply an aid to assist you in discussing boating safety while you are conducting a VSC.

Here are some suggested discussion talking points that may one day help save someone's life.

LIFE JACKETS

- In 85% of all boating related drownings, the person was not wearing a life jacket.
- Are they the proper size & comfortable ?
- Immediately available vs readily available
- Discuss how to test-fit for a child
- What should be attached:
 - Whistle
 - Mirror
 - PLB
 - Light
- Discuss inflatables
 - Pros and cons
 - Age requirements
- Throwables

DISTRESS SIGNALS

FLARES:

- Check the expiration dates
- Use "old" flares first--- explain why
- Dry & serviceable?
- Discuss how to operate
- Proper disposal

ELECTRONIC FLASHING LIGHTS:

- Required markings
- Must auto-flash SOS
- Advantage of added height

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

- How many are required
- Discuss types
- Discuss why not to RAP bottom of unit
- Explain PASS technique
- Discuss manufacturer's suggested 12 year life span (but still meets USCG requirements)

VENTILATION

- Discuss the 4 minute rule
- Is the decal present and readable?

SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES

- What good is a whistle if you are in the water and the whistle in your tackle box?
- What is THE distress signal?

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

- Why are they important if you never go out after dark ?

MARINE RADIOS

- Why not just carry a cell phone?
- RESCUE 21
- DSC
- Hand-helds vs. mounted

FUELING AND FUEL MANAGEMENT

- Discuss the 1/3 rule

ADDITIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT...The VSC requires only the minimum in safety equipment.

While with the boater, learn the type of boating they do. You can then discuss what added safety equipment you suggest they carry aboard:

- Anchor and rode
- Extra anchor
- Dewatering bucket
- Charts
- First Aid kit
- GPS / PLB / EPIRB
- Weather issues
- Ditch Bags
- Rescue throw lines
- PIW kits
- Survival Tips
- Spare lines
- Additional fenders
- Extra water, on those hot days
- Discuss MDA

ADDITIONAL TOPICS TO DISCUSS

Preventing alcohol use while on the water cannot be stressed enough. While one beer may not seem to be a lot, ask the boater to consider how it might affect their reaction time should someone fall overboard or an intoxicated boater veer in front of them. Would they consider drinking a beer while driving home from picking up their children after school?

Boater Safety classes are a must if we are going to reduce boating fatalities. Most boaters involved in an accident have never taken a boater safety course ! A short description for each of our Auxiliary Boater Safety Classes is listed in this pocket guide.

Filing a float plan...If no one knows they are missing, how long will it take before a search is started? Explain why and how to use a **float plan**. The act of leaving the necessary information with a neighbor might save their life!

Paddlecraft operators may require a little more attention than others boaters we interface with. In many cases, the paddler has no boating experience and, in fact, often does not even consider themselves to be a boater. Many of the things we take for granted are new and informative to the novice paddler.

Some paddlecraft topics you might discuss include:

- Bright colored protective clothing
- Whistle
- Self rescue techniques / equipment
- Extra water / energy snack
- Marine radio
- IF FOUND decal (and its purpose)
- Chart /compass
- Flashlight

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS FOR RENTAL AGENCIES (LIVERIES)

For those Vessel Examiners who plan to conduct VSCs at locations which rent out small boats, we suggest you take a few minutes to once again review Chapter 5 (Paddle Craft) in the Vessel Safety Check Manual (COMDTINST M16796.8) before heading out.

Obviously you will not be meeting with the individuals who will actually be renting the boats. You will need to rely on the agency to provide the necessary safety information. Take the time to emphasize the importance of their stressing **boater safety** and that everyone should always wear their life jacket. Ensuring the rental agency is providing their customers the necessary boater safety information is just as important as you ensuring their equipment meets state and federal requirements

Here are a few additional tips to keep in mind:

- 1- You are dealing with a business and you are representing the Coast Guard, please act accordingly.
- 2- Look each vessel over closely. They get a lot of use by "non-boaters" and may not always be in the best condition. If you are not satisfied that the vessel is "safe", it should be rejected. Take your time and examine each vessel. As you read in the manual, there are specific items to be aware of when examining different paddle craft.
- 3- Life jackets should be examined individually for wear, broken zippers, tears, missing hardware, etc. a. Are there enough life jackets, in different sizes, for the number of boats?
b. It is recommended, but not required, that a whistle be attached to each life jacket.
- 4- If a whistle isn't attached to each life jacket, are sufficient whistles available for each customer?
- 5- The vessels are generally rented for day time use. It is recommended, but again not required, that a flashlight be on board (a necessity when suddenly caught during a period of reduced visibility such as fog or a passing shower).
- 6- Look over their selection of paddles (oars) to ensure they meet the necessary standards.
- 7- Complete a 7012A form for each paddlecraft you examine. After signing and dating each form, give a copy to the owner/manager for their records. As a side note, remember that ANSC Form 7012A is not to be used when certifying Vessel Examiner candidates.
- 8- Ask the owner/ manager to place a decal on each vessel (which passed the examination) as described in the VSC manual. It's important that you observe the decals being installed.

Boating rental liveries, by nature, attract the NOVICE and NON BOATERS-ensuring every boater returns safely to the dock is one of the key reasons we consider these vessel safety checks to be critical in our campaign to reduce boating fatalities.

One final suggestion, within a day or two of completing the vessel safety checks, send a letter (preferably by the US Postal Service) thanking them for participating in our program. This more formal THANK YOU will go a long way in you being invited back next year.

THANK YOU for participating in the Vessel Safety Check Program!

Division Calendar

AUX DIVISION 35

Today July 2016 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2
		7pm Flo 35-6 M				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Independence			Division Mtg 1		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am VSC		Flo 35-1 Mtg Flo 35-7 Mtg	Flo 35-9 Mtg			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	6pm Detachme	Flo 3512 Mtg Flo 3516 Mtg		Flo 3511 Mtg		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		7pm Flo 35-6 M				
31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6
				COAST GUAR Division Mtg 1		

Events shown in time zone: Central Time

Today August 2016 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6
				COAST GUAR Division Mtg 1		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am VSC		Flo 35-1 Mtg Flo 35-7 Mtg	Flo 35-9 Mtg			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	6pm Detachme	Flo 3512 Mtg Flo 3516 Mtg		Flo 3511 Mtg		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		7pm Flo 35-6 M				
28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3
				Division Mtg 1		



Auxiliary Mandatory Training

All Auxiliarists are required to complete eight online training courses, called Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS). In addition, members are encouraged to complete ICS 100 and 700 – these courses are offered by FEMA and completions can be added to Auxiliarists' training records.

This document describes the procedures for completing the mandatory courses.

- New members must complete them within the first year from their enrollment date.
- Other Auxiliarists have until December 31, 2016.

Each course takes about an hour, maybe longer for some. They are straightforward; some have ongoing self-checks, others have a final test or no test.

Your completion is sent automatically to the Auxiliary database. However, in certain cases, computer operating systems and browsers might interfere with the completion.

TIP: Many members have had the best results using the Chrome browser (instead of Internet Explorer).

If you complete a course but the completion does not save to the system, you can sign an "attestation" that you completed it. See the FC or VFC for details.

You have the option of taking the courses in a classroom, if offered (taught similarly to a training workshop) or online on your own computer.

To take the mandated courses online:

Start from this LMS home site: <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil>

1. Get a password in AUXLMS:
 - a. Click on the "I forgot my password" link under the Login button.
 - b. Fill in the Username field with your individual primary email address currently in AUXDATA. This is your username for AUXLMS.
 - c. Click on the Submit button.
 - d. An email will be sent to your AUXDATA email address that contains your login and password. Note: If you do not receive an email, contact Andrea. The LMS system might have an outdated email address for you, which can be corrected only by a help ticket.
 - e. Return to <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil> and use the credentials provided in the e-mail to log in.
 - f. You will then be asked to change your password. TIP: Choose a friendly password that you can remember (no special rules, and you will not have to change it).
2. Register for a course:
 - a. On the LMS page, scroll down to **Course Catalog** (Catalog tab), and click **Auxiliary**.
 - b. Again under Course Catalog, click **Auxiliary Mandated Training**.

- c. There are eight mandated courses, but Civil Rights is waived because it must be taught in a classroom. Start with **Influenza Training and Ethics**. Then finish the others. Each one is a little different – some have a final test and others have ongoing self-checks.
 - d. Select a course to enroll in it.
 3. Start the course:
 - a. To start the course, click **My Account**, and
 - b. Under **Enrolled**, locate the course and click **GO**.
 - c. The screen changes, and you will probably have to click **GO** again.
 4. Completion:
 - d. As you finish a course, you should get a screen saying you completed it. You can go back to **My Account** and click **Completed**.
 - e. The certification goes directly into the Auxiliary database, and within a few days, it should appear on your training record – you don't have to send a certificate to me or anyone else.

The courses to complete:

- 502290 Influenza Training (one time only)
The purpose of this e-Learning course is to provide avian influenza (AI) and pandemic influenza awareness among Coast Guard personnel
- 502306 Ethics 1 - Personal Gifts (one time only)
Ethical Conduct is a self-paced, interactive lesson with tracking capabilities to demonstrate test completion and time on task.
- 502379 Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard (every 5 years)
Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard will lead participants through concepts and skills related to stress management and resilience and why they matter. In addition, you will be shown steps to take when you believe someone may be at risk for suicide.
- 810000 Sexual Harassment Prevention (every 5 years)
The purpose of Sexual Harassment Prevention training is to raise awareness among Coast Guard personnel of behaviors that constitute sexual harassment and to teach actions which should be taken to prevent or eliminate it.
- 810015 Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information (every 5 years)
In our mission to secure the homeland, we need to collect personal information from citizens, legal residents and visitors, and we are obligated by law and DHS policy to protect this information to prevent identity theft or other adverse consequences of a privacy incident or misuse of data.
- 810030 Security Education and Training Awareness (every 5 years)
The purpose of this course is to provide basic **NEED TO KNOW** information to all member of the Coast Guard on the topics of Operations Security (OPSEC), Information Security (INFOSEC), and Antiterrorism and Force Protection (AT/FP).
- 810045 Sexual Assault Prevention/Response (every 5 years)
This course provides all Coast Guard personnel with the basic awareness tools and the Coast

Guard policy and procedures for sexual assault prevention and response.

- 502319 Civil Rights Awareness (every 5 years)
This course consists of a 30-min video. The purpose of this course is to provide Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel an overview of the various concepts related to civil rights, information on the Auxiliary's Civil Rights Program, and how to ensure the protection of all Auxiliarists' civil rights.

Completion records are automatically uploaded from the Coast Guard system to the CG Auxiliary database within a few days.

To take ICS 100 and 700

1. For Incident Command System, ICS-100,
go to <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b>
Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

For Incident Command System, ICS-700,

go to <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.a>

This course introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

2. Download the course and course materials.
3. When you are ready, click **Take the Final Exam**.
4. When you pass the final exam, you will receive an email confirming the completion.
5. Forward the email to the FC, who will submit a Help ticket to have the course added to your training record.



Has your Auxiliary member ID card expired?

Once a year, check the expiration date on your member ID card. The card is valid for 5 years. When it's time to get a new card, you initiate the process.

If it's within a few months of expiration, or has already expired:

1. Tell the FC or VFC that you need a renewed ID card. They can help you get started.
2. Have your picture taken in the office (red background, uniform shirt). Zoom in so only your head with the red background is showing.
3. In an email, send the picture to the FC. Also provide the current information on the back of your card: Height (inches), weight, eye color, hair color, blood type, date of birth, and ID number.

The FC will submit your photo and information into the system. In a few weeks, the new card will be sent to the FC, who will have it at meetings. Bring your old card to swap out for the new card.

Note: If you present an expired card at the gate of a military base, you will not be allowed entry and your card might even be confiscated.