

## Burial at Sea

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Burials at sea are becoming more popular. Individuals eligible for this program by the military are:

- (1) active duty members of the uniformed services;
- 2) retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged.
- 3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and
- 4) dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services. For further information see: **Burial at Sea (navy.mil)**  
<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Casualty/Mortuary-Services/Burial-at-Sea/>

The EPA has a description of the rules pertaining to the burials in 40 CFR 229.1  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2014-title40-vol25/pdf/CFR-2014-title40-vol25-sec229-1.pdf> . The EPA web site on burials at sea is here:  
<https://www.epa.gov/marine-protection-permitting/burial-sea>

Basically, the disposal has to be at least three nautical miles from any land mass.

If it is ashes being sprinkled over the side, do it from the lee side of the boat. The cremains are very fine.

If it is an urn, the urn has to be bio degradable. It must also be weighted and holed so it will sink. The weights cannot be lead. Iron chain is preferred.

If it is a full body burial, the water depth has to be at least 600 feet. If it is in a shroud, the shroud has to be biodegradable and weighted. If it is a casket, it must be biodegradable, be weighted, have hole is in, and have straps around it.

A burial at sea of non-cremated and cremated human remains should be reported to the EPA within 30 days using the **Burial at Sea Reporting Tool**,  
<https://burialatsea.epa.gov/Form> .

The Navy and Coast Guard will perform burials at sea from deployed ships. Therefore, you are not allowed aboard for the service. <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Casualty/Mortuary-Services/Burial-at-Sea/>

A firm that specializes in burials at sea for all, where you can be aboard, is New England Burials at Sea. <https://www.newenglandburialsatsea.com/>

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