



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

22 MAY 2021
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 020/23

Subj: NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

1. Since 1958, the President has proclaimed the week prior to Memorial Day weekend as National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). Boating remains a highly popular, relatively safe, and memory-creating form of outdoor recreation. Preventing loss of life and damage is nonetheless a goal we all share, and we ask you to take precautions and encourage others to do so to make boating as safe as possible. The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) and the CG Auxiliary work extensively with the States and the recreational boating safety community on efforts to encourage model boating behavior. This year NSBW is from Saturday, May 20, 2023, through Friday May 26, 2023.
2. Please read ALCOAST 198/23, NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK, for more information about NSBW and what you can do to help. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience. "Please boat safely."
3. Internet release is authorized.

For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA.

*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX](#)
[ALAUX](#)

If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email CGAUX@uscg.mil.

R 171835Z MAY 23 MID120000090806U
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
TO ALCOAST
BT

UNCLAS

ALCOAST 198/23

SSIC 16210

SUBJ: NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

A. Recreational Boating Statistics, COMDTPUB P16754.35

B. Elijah Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020, Section 8316

C. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 221827 MAR 21/ACN 030/21

D. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 141452Z JAN 22/ACN 002/22

E. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 051516Z APR 23/ALCOAST 138/23

1. National Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is Friday, 19 May, and National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is Saturday, 20 May, through Friday, 26 May. The six most important things you can do:

- a. Wear a life jacket,
- b. Educate yourself through knowledge and skills-based training,
- c. Wear your engine cut-off switch link,
- d. Abstain from using alcohol while underway,
- e. Register your Beacon, and
- f. Get a free vessel safety check from the USCG Auxiliary at:
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>

2. Since 1958, the President has proclaimed the week prior to Memorial Day weekend as NSBW. Boating remains a highly popular, relatively safe, and memory-creating form of outdoor recreation. Preventing loss of life and damage is nonetheless a goal we all share, and I ask you to take precautions and encourage others to do so to make boating as safe as possible. COMDT (CG-BSX) works extensively with the States and the recreational boating safety community on efforts to encourage model boating behavior. Please visit:

(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://www.uscgboating.org>

to become more familiar with these efforts.

3. Per REF (A), 81% of boating fatalities were drownings, and 83% of those were victims that were not wearing life jackets. Please encourage and incentivize life jacket wear (2022 statistics will be released in June). Just like seatbelt wear, you never know when you will need it, but when you do, it's critical. Most states require life jacket wear by children. For adults, an inflatable life jacket is not cumbersome and easy to don. REF (A), the 2021 Recreational Boating Statistics, may be found at:

(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

https://uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.php

4. Boater Education makes a difference. Our statistics show that 75% of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator did not receive safety instruction. Applicable state boating education requirements may be found by visiting the state boating law section at:
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/regulations/state-boating-laws.php>

5. Wearing an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) link became a requirement when REF (B) modified 46 U.S.C. Section 4312. If the vessel has an ECOS link, the operator most likely must wear it. REF (C) provides specific circumstances when ECOS link wear is required and our enforcement posture when the ECOS link is not worn. Additional information may be found at:
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-devices.php>

6. New fire extinguisher regulations for recreational vessels took effect on April 20, 2022, REF (D). These regulations do not change the number of fire extinguishers required onboard. Per these regulations, owners of recreational vessels are now relieved from certain inspection, maintenance, and record keeping requirements. A series of frequently asked questions and supporting information may be found at:
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/fire-extinguisher-faq.php>

7. Alcohol consumption remains the single greatest contributing factor in recreational boating fatalities. Last year, 16% of deaths involved alcohol, and we believe these numbers are underreporting this problem. Please encourage sober boating on our Nation's waters. Per REF (E), if you are an operational unit, please participate in Operation Dry Water (ODW) during the 4th of July holiday weekend.

8. Get a vessel safety check at:
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>

Again, please ensure that boaters know what safety requirements their boat must meet.

9. During National Safe Boating Week, all Coast Guard units and commands are encouraged to participate in activities and special events that highlight safe boating. Units are encouraged to collaborate with their District Recreational Boating Safety Specialists, while planning National Safe Boating Week public outreach strategies and events such as Sector and Station open houses, and Auxiliary involvement.

10. POC: Tom Dardis, COMDT (CG-BSX-2) at: (202) 372-1063 or Thomas.J.Dardis@uscg.mil.

11. RDML Wayne R. Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG-5P), sends.

12. Internet release is authorized.