

ALAU 08-15 - VIGILANCE DURING COAST GUARD OPERATIONS

26 MAY 2015

1. On 22nd of May, VADM Michel released the below message calling for vigilance during Coast Guard operations. The 2015 boating season is now underway, and it is especially important to remain mindful of the daily risks we manage and the all-hands responsibility to continuously apply prudent risk management principles in all facets of our recreational boating safety mission set. As members of the Coast Guard workforce, we have a responsibility to ourselves, our crew, our loved ones and the public we serve to carry out our duties safely, whether it be working dockside conducting vessel safety checks, underway on patrol, or recovering from a regatta support mission.
2. I encourage leaders at all levels of the Auxiliary to review the contents of this message with fellow Auxiliarists at the next unit-level meeting, and seize every opportunity to underscore the constant and imperative need for vigilance.

CAPT F. Thomas Boross
Chief Auxiliary and Boating Safety

R 221530Z MAY 15
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//DCO//
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS //N03500//
ALCOAST 224/15
COMDTNOTE 3500

SUBJ: VIGILANCE DURING COAST GUARD OPERATIONS

1. It's been almost one year since I assumed the duties of Deputy Commandant for Operations. In that year, I have seen first-hand the tremendous work you perform conducting difficult and challenging operations in the most demanding of conditions.
2. Unfortunately, in the last nine months, the Coast Guard has experienced 11 Class B and 2 Class A mishaps in the Cutter and Boat Forces Communities. These events have resulted in the permanent partial disability of colleagues, the loss of cutter/boat asset hours, and a reduction in operational readiness. These incidents underscore the dangerous nature of our missions.
3. My primary responsibility is ensuring that you are able to safely and effectively perform all the various missions that you are called upon to execute. The fundamental principles that guide our operations from the top all the way down to the most newly reported Seaman Apprentice are the principles of risk management and on-scene initiative. These must be understood and practiced. When we speak of risk management,

we are not implying or assuming that risk can be managed to zero. We work in complex, dynamic, and often dangerous environments that demand acceptance of warranted levels of risk. We can reduce mishap occurrence and severity by renewing our focus on aspects of manageable risk mitigation, not only at the outset of every mission, but continuously as unexpected hazards develop.

4. Safety stand-downs play an important role in the aftermath of a mishap. However, we must also be proactive and pause before and during the mission to perform the foundational tenets of team coordination (leadership, mission analysis, adaptability and flexibility, situational awareness, decision making communication and assertiveness) in order to adapt to dynamic conditions.

5. We are working diligently with the safety community to continually update risk management guidance, training and tools to best support your risk assessment efforts. These tools will provide the most accurate and timely information for operators to mitigate hazards and make sound decisions. These updates will reduce mishaps if you integrate risk management into all daily routines, make risk acceptance decisions at the proper level and challenge subordinates to practice risk management at all times. You are charged with dangerous, critically important missions, and the public relies on you. I challenge you to always remain vigilant.

6. VADM C. D. Michel, Deputy Commandant for Operations, sends.

7. Internet release authorized.