

REF (A) D13INST 16750 DTD 24OCT08
(B) COMDTINST M16247.1E, MLEM
SUBJ: D13 OPERATION SAFE SUMMER 2011

1. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES THE OBJECTIVES AND OVERALL EXPECTATIONS FOR UNITS CONDUCTING RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN THE D13 AOR. OF ALL COAST GUARDS MISSIONS RECREATIONAL BOATING CONTINUES TO TOP THE LIST OF BEING AN ACTIVITY WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RISK TO THE PUBLIC WE SERVE. IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT REDUCING RECREATIONAL ACCIDENT AND FATALITIES WE NEED TO RETURN TO THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR SERVICE'S HERITAGE BY PRESERVING THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO RECREATE AND STILL PERFORM OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT WHILE ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

2. REFERENCE (A) OUTLINES THE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY GOALS FOR THE DISTRICT, ADVANCE BOATER EDUCATION, LIFEJACKET WEAR, BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE, NAVIGATION RULES, AND OPERATOR COMPLIANCE. THE OVERALL FOCUS IS COMPLIANCE AND TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED TO HAVE A STRONG EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH A UNIFIED ENFORCEMENT EMPHASIS. REFERENCE (B) HIGHLIGHTS THAT WE REMAIN SENSITIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO BE LAW ABIDING CITIZENS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO BE TREATED WITH COURTESY, RESPECT, AND DUE CONSIDERATION FOR THE NATURE OF ANY LEGITIMATE ACTIVITY IN WHICH THEY ARE ENGAGED. THEREFORE WE MUST NOT OVER BURDEN THE BOATING PUBLIC BY SUBJECTING THEM TO MULTIPLE BOARDING'S ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BOATER HAS MADE THE EFFORT TO COMPLY BY PARTICIPATING IN A VOLUNTARY EXAMINATION PROGRAM.

3. ONLY IF A VESSEL HAS BEEN BOARDED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 90 DAYS OR, DISPLAYS A CURRENT VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC) DECAL, OR A VOLUNTARY EXAM DECAL FROM A STATE AGENCY, AN ABBREVIATED OR "SPOT CHECK" BOARDING WILL BE CONDUCTED. AN ABBREVIATED BOARDING CONSIST OF CHECKING THE VESSELS REGISTRATION AND HAVING ALL PERSONS ON BOARD DON A COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFEJACKET. LIFE JACKETS MUST PROPERLY FIT THE INTENDED WEARER. THOSE VESSELS DISPLAYING A CURRENT VSC OR EQUIVALENT DECAL WITH ALL PASSENGERS ON BOARD WEARING LIFEJACKETS WILL BE GIVEN A PASS BY AT BOARDING OFFICER'S DISCRETION. THIS POLICY DOES NOT RESTRICT THE BOARDING OFFICER, IF IN HIS OR HER JUDGMENT, FEELS THE VESSEL IS BEING OPERATED IN AN UNSAFE MANNER, VIOLATING

OTHER LAWS OR REGULATIONS, OR THERE ARE OBVIOUS VISUAL DISCREPANCIES.

4. RECREATIONAL VESSEL SPOT CHECKS SHALL BE DOCUMENTED IN MSLIE AS A SIGHTING WITH DOCUMENTATION OF THE VESSELS REGISTRATION NUMBER AND NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BOARD. IF A BOARDING IS CONDUCTED AND RESULTS IN A VIOLATION BEING ISSUED THE BOARDING OFFICER SHALL ENCOURAGE THE VESSEL OPERATOR TO SEEK OUT A VSC EXAM CONDUCTED BY THE CG AUXILIARY OR THE US POWER SQUADRON TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLIANCE. BOATERS CAN SIGN UP FOR AN EXAM BY GOING TO WWW.SAFETYSEAL.NET

5. UNIT CO/OINC'S SHALL IDENTIFY AREAS WITHIN THEIR AOR WHERE HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF RECREATIONAL VESSELS OPERATE SUCH AS RIVER ESTUARIES AND BAYS WHERE HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF BOATERS ARE EXPECT TO BE OPERATING. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FISHERIES OPENINGS AND LARGE COMMUNITY EVENTS. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN LOCATIONS WITHIN THE AOR WHERE THE COAST GUARD HAS JURISDICTION BUT DOES NOT NORMALLY PATROL OR OPERATE.

6. CREDIBILITY WITH THE PUBLIC IS STRONGLY DEPENDANT ON CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN COAST GUARD UNITS AND STATE AGENCIES TO AVOID EXCESSIVE INTRUSION OR DISRUPTION. IN ORDER TO ENSURE MAXIMUM COVERAGE OF DISTRICT WATERS AND AVOIDING OVERLAPPING ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS BOARDING ACTIVITIES WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE CLOSELY MANAGED. JOINT PATROLS AND PARTNERING ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MINIMUM ANNUAL RBS BOARDING/INSPECTIONS GOALS:

- A. NORTH BEND
- B. COLUMBIA RIVER
- C. PUGET SOUND

ALL BOARDING'S AND SIGHTINGS WILL BE COUNTED TOWARD MEETING THESE GOALS

5. THE OPERATION SAFE SUMMER REPORTING PERIOD WILL COMMENCE ON 1 MAY AND TERMINATE ON SEPTEMBER 31. UNIT AND AUXILIARY SCHEDULED EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, TO INCLUDE VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINATION EVENTS, WILL BE REPORTED WEEKLY TO THE COGNIZANT SECTOR RBS COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHTING THE SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES NAME, LOCATION, DATE OF OCCURRENCE, NUMBER OF PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING, TOTAL MAN HOURS, NUMBER OF VSC'S

COMPLETED IF APPLICABLE AND WHICH GOAL/S AND LOCATIONS WERE TARGETED LISTED IN REFERENCE (A).

6. OUTREACH EMPHASIS WILL FOCUS ON LIFEJACKET WEAR ON ALL MOTORIZED CRAFT AND SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MANUALLY POWERED CRAFT. IN 2010 94 PERCENT OF THE 48 FATALITIES IN D13 WERE NOT WEARING LIFEJACKETS. OF THOSE 48 FATALITIES 48 PERCENT WERE NON MOTORIZED CRAFT. IN ALL OF THE NON MOTORIZED FATALITIES NONE OF THE VICTIMS WERE WEARING A LIFEJACKET. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK WITH ALL OUR PARTNER AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE INHERENT HAZARDS OF BOATING IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST WATERS. YOUR EFFORTS MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE. DISTRICT AND SECTOR POC'S ARE;

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