



Safety Lines

The Newsletter of the Department of
Marine Safety and Environmental Protection
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
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UPDATE ON TRIDENT PROGRAM COURSES AND AVAILABILITY

The Trident Program, the Marine Safety Department's training and qualifications program, is well underway. This edition of Safety Lines provides an update on each of the program's components, how to enroll in the program, how to complete your qualifications for the Auxiliary Marine Safety Device and answers to frequently asked questions about the program.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The program consists of both education and experience components that must be completed. Here's what they are – and an update on each.

The first of the education components – our basic course – is "Introduction to Marine Safety." This course has been developed by the Department for members newly engaged in Coast Guard and Auxiliary assignments in the marine safety and environmental protection fields. It is intended as an entry-level training program for all Team Coast Guard members – active, Reserve and Auxiliary. The course document is written and currently under review by the Coast Guard. Course publication and availability is expected late Summer, 2002.

A second education component – what we've referred to as our advanced course – is actually a group of four courses that are currently available for member enrollment. These are:

- Initial Indoctrination, Port Operations
- Initial Indoctrination, Marine Inspection
- Incident Command System Orientation (ICS Level 100)

- The "Good Mate" Marine Environmental Education Course

The Port Operations and Marine Inspection courses are currently available only in printed form, as textbooks and manuals provided by the Coast Guard Institute. Members may order these courses through the Director of Auxiliary in each District. Course applications may be completed in paper form or on-line by the DIRAUX staff on behalf of an Auxiliary member.

The Incident Command System Orientation course enrollment may be completed on line and the course may be taken on line. The course is accessible at the Trident website: www.coastguardcollege.org/CGI/TRIDENT It is also available in paper form from the Coast Guard Institute and may be ordered from this source by the Director of Auxiliary.

Members have the option of completing the ICS 100 course from a variety of sources, including local emergency management agencies, fire services, etc., in addition to this Coast Guard course. Members who have completed the ICS level 100 course may submit a copy of their course completion certificate with their application for award of the Auxiliary Marine Safety Device.

The "Good Mate" Marine Environmental Education course, including manuals and study guide, is also accessible on the Trident website; it may be completed on line as well. Course documents are shown as portable document (PDF) files and may be downloaded by using the free Adobe Acrobat reader. A limited supply of printed documents for this course is also available from the Auxiliary National Supply Center and may be ordered by the FC or FSO-MA.

ABOUT THE NEW TRIDENT WEBSITE

Course delivery, student administration and final examinations will be accomplished on the Trident website, currently hosted at: www.coastguardcollege.org/CGI/TRIDENT

Access to the Trident website will be linked from the Marine Safety Department's home page on AUXWEB as well. Members interested in additions and updates to the Trident material, including the addition of the new training courses reviewed above, should check this site for additional information.

The Trident website links to a user-driven learning management system (TrainerSoft) that allows the student to create his or her own account, log into a personal record to enroll in a course, proceed at whatever pace desired, and complete the course through on-line testing. Documentation of the student's successful course completion is also provided on the Trident website.

COMPLETION OF FOUR PERSONNEL QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS (PQS)

Members seeking to complete the requirements for the new Auxiliary Marine Safety device will complete a minimum of four PQS documents – the experience component. In addition to course delivery, the Trident website will also provide access to these documents. Members may download the documents and begin to use them in connection with the completion of their occupational skills. The initial PQS documents will be available for review and download by mid-August of this year. Information about the PQS documents and updates on them will be posted on AUXWEB. For members who do not have access to a computer, the PQS documents will be printed and a supply will be maintained at the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC).



ABOUT THE FOUR YEAR TIME-IN-SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR M DEVICE

Members must complete a period of four years of satisfactory service in a marine safety program or mission area. A year of satisfactory service is defined as 96 hours of direct support. A minimum accumulation of 384 hours is required for the award. Years of service do not have to be consecutive. Time accrued since January 1, 1997 will be counted for award of the device.

APPLICATION FOR THE DEVICE; MENTORING, APPROVALS AND THE CERTIFICATION OF MEMBER RECORDS

Members will proceed toward completion of requirements in the Trident program with the assistance of a Trident mentor. The content of a mentoring program and the process for qualification and appointment of mentors is currently under development by the National Staff. Specific details on a process to review and approve member qualifications in marine safety and environmental protection will be announced as soon as they are fully developed internally and approved by the national leadership.

Along with the review and approval process for member advancement, the National Staff is working on the application documents and the form of the certification for the Auxiliary M device. The drafts of the application forms and the suggested form of the certificate of award require approval as well.

Trident program information will be updated on the Marine Safety home page on AUXWEB. We are hard at work now on the education courses, the PQS documents and the development of the Trident website. We urge members to track our progress and to join us in this important new program area.

SAFETY LINES is distributed to AUXWEB: the National EXCOM; all National Board Members: the Chief Director and all District Directors of Auxiliary; all DSO-MS and DSO-OP officers; and by copy to all District, Division and Flotilla M staff. Editor John Shanahan, DVC-MO; e-mail at JHShanahan@aol.com Phone: 201-291-5970