



# Safety Lines

The Newsletter of the  
Department of Marine Safety and Environmental

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
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## Overview: The National Marine Safety Program

The Year 2000 national work program for marine safety and environmental protection includes a broad and challenging array of activities. This newsletter begins our series on the National Marine Safety Program. Here's an overview of some of our activities:

### Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety

In support of Coast Guard efforts to improve commercial fishing vessel (CFV) safety, the Auxiliary is training and assigning dockside examiners. These members conduct CFV exams dockside and inspect both the boat and the safety equipment carried on board. Just like the Auxiliary's CME program for recreational boats, participation is voluntary and there is no penalty if a boat fails the exam.

Also like the CME program, CFV examiners serve as dockside educators and familiarize fishermen with federal regulations, required equipment and safe working practices. A key part of the exam is inspection of PFD's, including the number and condition of exposure suits, a critical element of survival in the event of an accident. Also inspected and checked for proper operating condition are the vessel's 406 EPIRB's. Taken together, these two items are absolutely essential to crew survival. Auxiliary successes in this program are already credited with saving a number of lives.

A companion to the CFV safety check program is the "Dockwalker" program. Initially a pilot effort in District One, Southern Region, this program provides members who may not have the time or interest to train for the specialized work of vessel inspectors the opportunity to act as dockside

public affairs officers. Dockwalkers provide critical information materials to fishing vessel crews. They are frequently the first point of contact with the fishermen and are able to encourage the voluntary dockside exam.

For additional information on the CFV safety program and "Dockwalkers," contact Michael True, Division Chief, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety, at [AUXDVCMS@aol.com](mailto:AUXDVCMS@aol.com).

### Marine Environmental Protection

Auxiliary initiatives in this area began with support to the Coast Guard's "Sea Partners" program, a marine environmental education effort sponsored largely by the Coast Guard Reserve. With Auxiliary assistance and involvement, the Sea Partners effort has grown significantly and is now a regular feature of both our public education classes and public affairs activities.

Working with the Coast Guard's "Sea Partners" program manager, MCPO Linda Reid, the Center for Marine Conservation and state and local conservation groups, Auxiliary "Sea Partners" present class modules on the proper fueling and cleanup of boats, use and disposal of absorbent pads, MARPOL and US standards for the management of trash and waste, impact and mitigation of aquatic nuisance species, marine mammal protection, ballast water management, pumpouts and the National Clean Boating Campaign, special programs for compensation to boaters for damages from pollution...and more!

Combining traditional Auxiliary skills in public education and public affairs with a special focus in environmental management, Sea Partners provides a well developed educational and program structure for a proactive initiative in this area of Coast Guard responsibility.

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Federal responsibilities for pollution control and abatement in coastal and inland waters overlap among agencies, and are often shared with state and local authorities as well. Auxiliary members often bring a strong understanding of state and local programs and agencies, plus the ability to develop and maintain long-lasting relationships with local officials – all key to the Coast Guard's successes in this area.

Program support materials are available and in stock at the Auxiliary Center; training courses are available from the Coast Guard Institute; and there's an abundant variety of volunteer opportunities available, from boat shows to classrooms, from dockside education to MSO operations... all for the asking. If you want to live the challenge of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," this program is for you!

For additional information on Sea Partners and marine environmental protection initiatives, contact Barry Foskit, Division Chief, Marine Environmental Protection, at [Barry.Foskit@drake.edu](mailto:Barry.Foskit@drake.edu)

## Strategic Planning

Our planning activities consider both the big picture (what we should be doing to support the Coast Guard and the states) and the more focused picture of response planning (how the Auxiliary must organize and support emergency response plans).

Not surprisingly, the planning function overlaps the work and responsibilities of both of the Departments within the Coast Guard/State Support Directorate – Marine Safety and Operations. That situation mirrors one that is common within the Coast Guard: M missions are usually executed with O assets. As a result, the planning functions within the Marine Safety Department are tasked with both M and O issues.

A good example of how this works is found within some of the initial work of the Planning Division: the development and definition of the working relationships between the Auxiliary in each District and the local Coast Guard Activities and MSO's that the Auxiliary supports. Definition of these relationships was

the subject of the Division's template for "Memorandums of Understanding" that have defined the areas of interest, work assignments and oversight responsibilities for Auxiliary programs in support of Coast Guard marine safety responsibilities.

In addition to providing guidance for field operations, the Planning Division has taken the lead on national program planning for M, documenting the annual work plan and providing reports on progress for the national department chief.

A major effort over the last couple of years has been the development of planning guidelines for all emergency and hazard responses by the Auxiliary. The guidelines were developed and documented during 1997 and 1998; by 1999, it had become time to insure that they were adequately operational within Auxiliary units in each of the Districts. That effort is a central feature of the Planning Division's work for the year 2000, insuring that members are adequately trained, supported and informed to guide the planning process within each of the Districts.

For additional information on the work of the strategic planning division, contact Mark Stacy, Division Chief, Strategic Planning, at [mpstacy@iname.com](mailto:mpstacy@iname.com)

## Upcoming Features

Subsequent issues of Safety Lines will feature the work of the Health and Safety Division, the Marine Safety Division and the Special Projects Division. We'll include announcements and articles of general interest from the Department Chief, David Sargent, and Deputy Chief, Barry Foskit. And from time to time, we'll feature members putting these programs and opportunities to work, with special reports from the Districts to encourage your work.

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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.  
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