



Safety Lines

*The Newsletter of the
Department of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
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OVERVIEW: NATIONAL MARINE SAFETY PROGRAM FOR 2001

2001 brings changes in the staff and structure of the National Marine Safety Program. COMO Helmut Hertle has assumed the reins as Department Chief, while Barry Foskit remains as Deputy Department Chief.

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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.

For additional information on Sea Partners and other environmental protection initiatives, contact Barry Foskit, Division Chief, Marine Environmental Protection at: Kbfoskit@aol.com

STRATEGIC PLANNING DIVISION

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).

For additional information on the work of the strategic planning division, contact Jack Nourie, Division Chief, Strategic Planning, at: jenourie@pilot.infi.net

MARINE SAFETY DIVISION

Marine Licensing, Port Safety, and Inspections support fall under this Division and encompass a broad range of activities.

Auxiliarists work in, and with, Regional Exam Center in tasks ranging from clerical support to proctoring of remote licensing exams and review of course materials as part of the opportunities that exist under the Licensing Branch.

The Port Safety Branch deals with harbor safety patrols, derelict vessel surveys, and other areas as needed by local MSOs.

The Inspections Branch covers inspections not included in the Commercial Vessel Division, such as port facilities, container inspections, cargo vessels, and foreign ships. Again, opportunities vary by area.

For additional information on Marine Safety opportunities, contact Greg Kester, Division Chief, Marine Safety at: kester@televiso.com

COMMERCIAL VESSEL EXAMINATION DIVISION

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.

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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 Vessel Examination, at AUXDVCMS@aol.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

The Special Projects Division is responsible for developing new initiatives within the Department and for communications and information management. Additionally, it serves as the staff support element of the Department.

The Division is currently working on opportunities for Auxiliary participation in USCG waterways management efforts and on improving information flow within the Department.

For further information on Special Projects, contact John Shanahan, Division Chief, Special Projects at JHShanahan@aol.com

OUR MISSION AND WHAT WE DO

We are the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s core team of specialists in marine safety and environmental protection.

Our mission is to support the marine safety and environmental protection

programs of the United States Coast Guard and to train and support members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary who join us in this effort. Here’s what we do:

Conduct Harbor Safety Patrols to protect the recreational boating public and the waterways environment.

Educate boaters and the general public on clean boating practices, responsible environmental practices in marinas, and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems.

Conduct voluntary dockside examinations of commercial fishing vessels to insure that boats are properly equipped and crews properly prepared to venture out in this most dangerous of occupations.

Prepare emergency response plans and train Auxiliary members to effectively support emergency mobilization of the Coast Guard.

Augment the staffing of Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers and conduct remote testing of applicants for merchant mariner licenses.

Conduct field sampling, prevention and public education programs designed to mitigate the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

Conduct abandoned vessel surveys and bridge inspections and promote public education and awareness of waterways conservation and management.

Educate and communicate with Coast Guard Auxiliary members about opportunities for service in marine safety and environmental protection missions of the Coast Guard.

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 Karel Kester, BC-MOI; e-mail at kester@televiso.com Phone: 303-776-1834