



District Staff Officer – Marine Safety
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Date: July 26, 2008
From: Nick G. Tarlson
To: DCO, VCO, DSO-SR, DC-M, Sector Liaisons
Subject: Monthly Report

America's Waterway Watch

ADSO Bill Burns has developed a new reporting form which streamlines the data collection process as well as making it easier to summarize at each (flotilla-division-sector-district) level. Please encourage your units to complete and forward this information each month as part of their (marine safety?) reports.

We have committed to Sector to sponsor at least two outreach activities each month. This month, we had about a dozen, including Summer Sailstice at Treasure Island, National Safety Day at the Federal Building in San Francisco, and the Bay Area Harbor Safety Committee, where even COTP CAPT Gugg took some material. If you sponsor an outreach activity which you would like to be included, let Bill Burns know.

Blue and Gold Ferries agreed to post the AWW posters. You might not all be aware that these are available with customized waterfront areas, including San Francisco, depicted. Order through ANSC.

Incident Management

We recently announced an opportunity for Auxiliarists to support the Incident Management Division as Assistant Pollution Investigators. Those interested should contact RCO Steve Salmon.

2008 Dockwalker kits are still available. Delta Boater Kits are available from Dan Jordan at (925) 313-2023 or djord@pw.cccounty.us. Statewide Boater kits are available from Vivian Matuk at (415) 904-6905) or [ymatuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:yamatuk@coastal.ca.gov). You can of course order a combination of both the Delta and the statewide boater kits. Remember that the three Dockwalkers who send in the most completed Boater Questionnaires before October 27th, 2008, will receive a cool jacket donated by West Marine.

Domestic Vessel Inspections

The new MDA Inspector Program is officially started, with 9 MDA patrols conducted in the last month in SF and Richmond as well as 10 TWIC observation patrols.

It is our plan and goal to have members from across the district participating in this program, The member would be assigned to waterfront and related communication and transportation facilities. The basic curriculum for this will be the Harbor Safety Officer PQS, and it is our objective that we have qualifying officers in each division to support this training. Ed Sweeney has agreed to assist in this capacity in Division 3. Other divisions, please try to find someone who will commit to assist and coordinate our efforts in this area in your aor.

In this program, Auxiliarists will be issued orders, wear the ODU uniform, and check in with the SDO when launching and securing their patrols. They will be encouraged to work in pairs, with one qualified member and one trainee. These patrols will be established and maintained district-wide, and include both targets and potential launch sites such as marinas and unattended waterfront areas, integrating our efforts with Sector San Francisco's Operation Focused Lens. Within San Francisco and Alameda, the MDA Inspections will be combined with and include spot checks of liferaft servicing facilities. Please ask your members to identify and "adopt" sensitive harbor areas and contact Neil Nevesny to establish an inspection schedule.

Two Auxiliarists have completed all of the PQS items for the Assistant Liferaft Inspector qualification. The Sector Commander has asked us to convene oral boards for all qualifications of this type. Oral boards are an excellent way to show the Coast Guard that we are committed and competent, and to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of our training activities. This is a program which will be staffed entirely by our members and involves monthly observations of liferaft servicing activities at three facilities in San Francisco and Alameda. Our goal is to have each facility inspected at least once a month, and for each qualified member to perform an inspection at least once a quarter.

Auxiliarists comprise 15 out of 22 qualified examiners and conducted 21 out of 54 Commercial Fishing Vessel Exams during the second calendar quarter and 43 out of 94 for the year to date. Our activity was severely impacted by the closure of the salmon season in March. Due to its voluntary nature, exam activity depends heavily on fishermen who are boarded and participate in the fix-it ticket program. Operation Safe Crab in early July resulted in at least another 8 safety inspections and 9 spot checks (by Neil Nevesny alone).

The Uninspected Passenger Vessel program resulted in 3 exams in the last month and 9 to date. We distributed over 200 posters to marinas in the Bay and Delta area in the past month. Please ask your PVs to inquire with marina owners and encourage them to post the posters prominently.

Ferry Vessel Audit Program

We conducted 45 audits since the last report, for a total of 71 to date, as compared with only 47 audits as of this time last year. Every ferry line has been audited, and 2/3rds or more of the vessels of each ferry line has been visited by auditors. This includes our rarely run to Angel Island, and the Alameda Harbor Bay run. We responded to a call outs

relating to the Golden Gate Ferry Vessel *Del Norte*, which is filled to capacity nearly every weekday morning for the 0820 run. We performed 4 audits on the vessel over two months' time and will continue to audit her regularly over the next several months.

With our DTrain training, we now have a total to date of 67 auditors. The training will be offered again at the PCA Training Fair in August.

A Ferry Vessel Audit Day held by Marla Moura and Harry Sinclair in Vallejo on June 24th, experienced and non- experienced Division 5 members were paired to go out together. Other Division MS staff officers are encouraged to organize their own Ferry Vessel Audit Days using staffing information available from ADSO Abigail Wagg.

Exceptions we find involve missing or broken security tags, poor passenger screening, failure to indicate vessel movement by proper sound signals, inaudible underway safety announcements, dirty and smelly toilets, poorly identified children's PFD lockers and their storage and turnaround security checks.

Facilities Inspection

The Sector Prevention Facilities Branch makes at about 1 request per week for Auxiliary assistance.

Container Inspection

We continue to have four qualified inspectors (and one trainee) who are operational 3-4 days a week in this important but complex area.

Regional Examination Center

A Forensic Document Examiner class was held June 27, 2008, at the Federal Building in Oakland. 13 out of 20 participants were Auxiliarists representing seven divisions: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. 17 more Auxiliarists expressed interest in attending but were not able to be accommodated due to the priority given to remote geographical areas. 5 Auxiliarists failed to respond to REC's efforts to contact them, and 2 who confirmed their attendance were no shows. Please ask your members to take these training opportunities seriously as it reflects poorly on our members when we are unreliable and unprofessional.

Pacific Strike Team

Richard Celia continues to stand watch every Friday at the PST.

Occupational Medical Surveillance and Evaluation Program (OMSEP)

Encourage your members to participate in this program, which is intended to protect their occupational health.

Marine Safety Training Ribbon

Dean LaChappelle and Wilfred Sumner joined the first five recipients of the Marine Safety Training Ribbon in our District:

Simone H. Adair
Stuart M. Hunter

William W. Burns
Guy E. Mallery

Phil E. Grove

The ribbons should have been distributed to the members' flotillas by DIRAUX during the past week or so.

Please encourage your members to consider this as a minimum goal and qualification for marine safety officers and members interested in the program.

Trident Program

No new activity. Jerry Bynum is summarizing the existing Trident qualifications in order to facilitate Coast Guard tasking.

Other Initiatives

Domestic inspections needs interpreters in Croatian and Vietnamese languages.

The Ship Ride program is currently operating with active-duty riders only.