



Boating Safety

Each year, Great Harbors coordinates a visit from the volunteers from the USCG Auxiliary. Vessel Safety Checks are conducted in late June or early July on a pre-determined Saturday morning. By utilizing the short-term floats, we will be able accommodate everyone who wants to participate, especially our neighbors in the Shorewood or Belmar Associations. Please contact Chris Tomasini (christopher_tomasini@hotmail.com) to sign up (to be sure that the Woods Hole Auxiliary brings enough examiners to get everything done quickly).

Prepare yourself by visiting: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=virtual-safety-check> so that you know what to expect.

The Vessel Safety Check program is a *free* check of a vessel's equipment for compliance with federal and state safety requirements. The vessel examiners performing this service have been trained to look for some of the more common problems which might occur in your boat, or with its associated safety equipment. Some of the items to be checked are:

Proper display of numbers	Registration/Documentation
Personal Flotation Devices (Life Jackets)	Visual Distress Signals
Fire extinguishers	Ventilation
Backfire flame control	Sound producing devices
Navigation lights	State requirements
Oil Pollution & trash placards	Marine Sanitation Device
Overall vessel condition	Navigation rules

If a vessel meets all of the VSC requirements, it earns a VSC decal. The vessel examiner will discuss with the recreational boater the purpose of specific marine safety equipment, will clarify various federal and state regulations, will discuss certain safety procedures and practices, and answer any boating related questions. No citations are ever given during this process, which takes approximately 20-30 minutes if you are prepared.