

NOTICE TO ALL COXSWAINS in Sector Baltimore

Over the past few weeks we've encountered several instances in which commercial towing companies have complained to the Coast Guard that Auxiliary vessels have begun towing come-upons that had contract with the towing companies for services when the Auxiliary vessels arrived on scene.

As you know, this is a very serious issue for the Coast Guard and for the Auxiliary. Not only does it violate the written procedures for both organizations, but it damages the Coast Guard's relationship with commercial towing companies, and it opens both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary to possible liability claims. The Coast Guard may not defend an Auxiliary coxswain when it can be shown that they violated official procedures.

Accordingly, Sector Commander, CAPT Mark P. O'Malley has requested that between now and July 15th refresher training be provided for every coxswain in Sector Baltimore to make sure they thoroughly understands the towing rules and the need to comply with them ([Memo Attached](#)).

Any coxswain who has not completed one of these classes by July 15th will not be issued orders for patrols until he or she has taken the training. All Coxswains must take this new refresher course, even though the procedures were discussed at the March 27th Sector Baltimore Winter Workshops at Southern High School Operations Workshop sessions. This requirement applies only to coxswains because they have responsibility for the Auxiliary patrol boat. Crew members and others should not attend these classes.

To comply with the Captain's request, we are planning to set up three dates between now and July 15th for holding one-hour refresher classes--one on a Saturday, one on a Sunday and one on a weeknight, so that everyone will have an opportunity to attend. We hope to get the schedule to you early next week. We estimate that the training will take about an hour and a half. This is similar to the procedure we used for meeting the Sector's cold-weather training requirements last year, except that this time we won't be training division instructors to hold classes locally.

The Sector Commander and the Auxiliary leadership are very serious about driving home the need to comply with Coast Guard and Auxiliary policy on this issue. In a word, we simply cannot and will not compete with commercial towing companies.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

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"Attitude Is Everything"

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