

United States Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Disposal of Expired Pyrotechnic Signaling Devices

Federal law requires a range of vessels to carry Pyrotechnic Signaling Devices on board the vessel at all times. If you are unsure if they are required on your vessel, we recommend that you contact a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiner at (510) 473-7248 or on the web at <http://cgaux.org/vsc/>.

Recommended disposal of expired pyrotechnic signaling devices (including aerial flares and hand held signals):

Retain them for back-up use to expand signaling time in the event of an emergency.

Donate to a local Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron for use in their educational classes.

Contact a local law enforcement or fire department for their advice on proper disposal.

Ignite hand-held signals flares on land in a safe area away from any combustible material, much the same as highway flares would be ignited.

NEVER jettison visual distress signals overboard.

NEVER activate marine aerial flares in a non-emergency situation unless it is a Coast Guard sanctioned demonstration.

NEVER dispose of flares in household trash.