



Up Top In Operations

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Volume 6

Getting Ready

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"We must be ready in all of our mission areas, while building our maritime security capability as a priority."

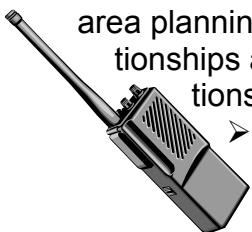
ADM Thomas Collins, Commandant's Direction 2002

As the tarp comes off the boat and the cobwebs get swept away, you know that it is time to get ready. Sure, you say... get ready to put the boat into the water! Is that all? NO...now is a good time to make sure that you are ready. Are you ready to discharge your duties as a Coast Guard Auxiliarist if and when a state of heightened readiness exists? Are you ready in the workplace and at home?

Readiness requires us to prepare mentally and with our actions. Readiness is not taking things for granted. There are things that you can do to be more prepared for the unexpected or the tragic. Here is some food for thought...

In the CG Auxiliary Operations Program...

- Are your qualifications up to date? Have you taken the Incident Command System Course (ICS 100)? Are you prepared as a First Responder in a pollution incident? The skills needed to respond in an event have changed. We need to strive for continuous self improvement.
- Have you updated the flotilla's emergency response plans, calling tree, etc.? Have you had the opportunity to participate in exercises or drills? These are a great way to get a feel for the response and capability of Auxiliary forces.
- Have you taken advantage of opportunities to partner with other local agencies? Are you an active member of the local area planning or harbor committee? These collaborative relationships are essential to cooperation in emergency situations.
- Is your facility (vessel, aircraft or radio) in good working order? Has all of the preventive maintenance...



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Internet Treasures

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Looking for the latest link to the Boat Crew Seamanship Manual? Need the requirements for re-qualification? The internet is a great resource, not only for the getting to the standard references but also for staying current with the latest updates, changes and errata's.



It's not always easy to find the references. Here are some of the choices today:

Chief Director of Auxiliary:
http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx

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The Readiness Challenge

Will you be ready in the next big emergency? Will you be able to speak the language of emergency preparedness in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary? Take this challenge! Find the acronyms for terms listed below used in search and rescue, pollution response and homeland security in this word search. Good Luck! We'll publish the answers next month.



"Up Top in Operations" is the monthly newsletter of the
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Most manuals (communications watchstanding, boat crew, aviation)

http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/publications/comdtinst/

For Coast Guard SAR addendum:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opr/manuals.htm>

For many others (but must search by name or title)

<http://isddc.dot.gov>

select Get Document, select USCG as agency, and search by title or number ("criteria"). For example, the Operations Policy Manual can be found by using the title

USCG COMDTINST M16798.3D

Army Corp of Engineers	Area of Responsibility	Crisis Action Center
Command Duty Officer	Comprehensive Environmental Recovery Compensation Liability Act	Coast Guard Cutter
Change Operational Control	Chemical Hazard Response Information System	Coast Guard
Commandant Instruction	Communications	Captain of the Port
Department of Homeland Security	Datum Marker Buoy	Emergency Operations Center
Environmental Protection Agency	Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
Incident Command System	Joint Information Center	Atlantic Area
Last Known Position	Marine Assistance Request Broadcast	Medical Evacuation
Marine Environmental Protection	Marine Environmental Response	National Contingency Plan
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	National Response Center	National Strike Force Coordination Center
Oil Pollution Act of 1990	On Scene Commander	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pacific Area	Personal Flotation Device	Person in Water
Persons on Board	Pollution Report	Regional Response Team
Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking	Situation Report	SAR Mission Coordinator
Spill of National Significance	Standard Operating Procedures	Search and Rescue Unit
Taking on Water	Unified Command System	Urgent Marine Information Broadcast
United States Fish and Wildlife Service		

Getting Ready

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nance been done? Has the facility been accepted for use by the Director of Auxiliary? Do you have checklists and procedures to quickly orient new crew members in an emergency?

At Home...

- Do you have an emergency plan for the home? Do you and your family practice for a variety of emergency situations? A fire or flood can be as devastating to your lifestyle as an attack on our homeland.
- Do you know the location and operation of shut off valves/switches for gas and electricity? Do you have fire extinguishers in strategic locations? Are the fire extinguishers fully charged?
- Have you shared contact information with other friends and family members? Are your important legal documents and other valuables kept in a secured place? Passports, wills, power of attorney, financial papers and irreplaceable photos are difficult or impossible to replace if destroyed. Your family may need your legal power of attorney if you are participating in a response remote from your home.
- Do you have a disaster kit for the home and for the car? Local emergency response organizations can provide guidance for the contents of these kits.

At the Workplace...

- Do you know your workplace emergency plan? Have you considered potential evacuation routes?
- Have you talked with your employer about your role in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary? Do you have some flexibility if we are called to a heightened state of readiness? Talk with your friends and colleagues about your volunteer commitment and it's value to the community and the Coast Guard. Many employers will be as supportive to you as they are to Reserve members of the Armed Forces.

Lastly, have you talked to your flotilla leadership about your availability on a regular basis and in times of crisis? Do you bring other important skills to the organization? Operation Patriot Readiness (Phase II) is designed to collect the information needed to build our "readiness database". If you haven't thought about how and when you can commit your time and talent...NOW is the time. Now is the time to truly BE READY!



Attention Aviators Joining the Auxiliary!

Welcome aboard! A qualification reminder: while joining the Auxiliary itself does not require taking a boating safety course, becoming qualified in operations does. USCG Auxiliary and US Power Squadron safety courses qualify, or you may challenge and successfully take a USCG Aux safety course exam (e.g. you can read the material yourself, take the exam, and not have to go through all classroom lecture time).

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