



16798

MEMORANDUM

NOV 17 2009

From: M. P. O'Malley, CAPT
CG Sector Baltimore

Reply to: LT Burrus
Attn of: 410-576-2639

To: Robert Birrane, Sr.
District Captain
USCG Sector Baltimore Auxiliary

Subj: AUXILIARY COLD WEATHER BOAT OPERATIONS

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series)
(b) Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, COMDTINST M16794.51 (series)
(c) Rescue and Survival Systems Manual, COMDTINST M10470.10 (series)

1. The safety of all Sector Baltimore personnel is of paramount importance to me. As with all Coast Guard operations, Auxiliary Boat Operations involve inherent risk that we must constantly strive to mitigate. Operations in cold weather add significant danger and additional risk. It is with this in mind that I ask your assistance in implementing the following requirements, in accordance with references (a) through (c), regarding cold weather operations and dry suit programs for Sector Baltimore Auxiliary.
2. Training for Auxiliary Cold Weather Boat Operations. In accordance with reference (b), I am requiring mandatory cold weather boat operations training for Auxiliary boat crews prior to conducting patrols in cold weather conditions. The training will be Auxiliary proctored and is valid for one year.
 - a. Training will consist of, at a minimum:
 - i. Showing of the Coast Guard Institute DVD, "Hypothermia/Cold Water Survival"
 - ii. Training on the proper use, wear, and maintenance of Cold Weather Clothing and Equipment in accordance with Chap 3, Section D of reference (c).
 - iii. Dry suit float test in accordance with reference (c).
 - b. Cold weather training conducted by Auxiliarists participating in CG Standard Boat (41' UTB or 25' RBS) qualification programs satisfies the above requirement.
 - c. Auxiliarists with personally owned dry suits must still complete this training and conduct the float test in the dry suit.
 - d. A list of personnel who have successfully completed either form of training will be maintained by the Auxiliary.
3. Auxiliary Dry Suit Management Program. The Auxiliary inventory of dry suits shall remain centralized at Sector Baltimore to ensure accountability for these valuable property items and to allow for standardized maintenance and issuance. This program shall be Auxiliary run and implemented to ensure the following:
 - a. Auxiliary owned dry suits and all accompanying equipment (Cold Weather Ensembles) are maintained in accordance with reference (c).

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- b. Cold weather ensembles are issued to Auxiliarists who have completed Cold Weather Training described above, and form AF-538 is used to maintain accountability and track ensembles.
 - c. Suits are returned to the centralized locker after cold weather patrols are completed or by 15 May. An annual inventory of all Auxiliary owned dry suits shall be completed by 30 May.
 - d. Personally purchased and owned dry suits must meet Coast Guard cold weather standards and be maintained in accordance with reference (c) or manufacturer's recommendations. Written record of this maintenance, per Annex C of reference (c), shall be provided to the Auxiliarist responsible for managing this program. This record must be provided before members may use personally owned suits for Auxiliary patrols.
4. Cold Weather Patrol Orders. Beginning 1 December 2009 patrol orders may only be issued to Auxiliary boat crews who have met the above training requirement and are in possession of properly maintained cold weather ensembles per reference (c). To effectively implement this, please ensure the following:
- a. A list of all Auxiliary personnel who have successfully completed cold weather training and are in possession of a properly maintained cold weather ensemble is provided to the Auxiliary Liaison Officer and all Patrol Order Management System (POMS) managers prior to 1 December 2009, with updates as necessary. Only boat crews consisting of personnel on this list will be issued cold weather patrol orders.
 - b. Between now and 1 December, Auxiliary coxswains in receipt of patrol orders must verify personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements (anti-exposure coveralls vs. dry suit) with the controlling Coast Guard Station prior to commencing a patrol. The Auxiliary cold weather PPE requirement will be the same as Station boat crews. If PPE requirements can not be met by the Auxiliary boat crew, Stations will be directed to cancel the patrol.
5. This policy will be included in the Auxiliary Annex of Sector Baltimore's Standard Operating Procedures, which is currently in development. As it is implemented over this winter, please provide feedback, input, and recommended changes to the Auxiliary Liaison Officer.
6. Your assistance in ensuring the safety of our Auxiliary Guardians is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact LT Christopher Burrus, 410-576-2639, Christopher.G.Burrus@uscg.mil

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Copy: (1) CG District Five(drx)
(2) Sca
(3) sr
(4) Sector Baltimore Stations (6)