



**Homeland Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District 11 Northern Region**

*Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah*



**Vessel Examinations Department  
Report for: July 2008**

**To:** VCO Michael L. Williams D11NR  
**From:** Michael J. Lauro – DSO-VE 11NR  
**Cc:** DCO Victor J. Connell, IPDCO Eric Jacobson, DIRAUX, All RCO's,  
All DCPs, All DSO's, ADSO-VE, and All SO-VE's  
**Subject:** DSO-VE Report



**DIVISION STAFF OFFICER ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM: June 2008**  
**20 of 44 Flotilla's or 45% reporting. 7 of 10 Divisions or 70% reporting.**

**-DIVISION 1 SAN FRANCISCO NORTH (Richard Saber SO-VE)**

Vessel Safety Checks:

Flotilla 1-2 Reports 7 VSC's  
Flotilla 1-5 Reports 0 VSC's  
Flotilla 1-9 Reports 2 VSC's

Flotilla 1-4 Reports 30 VSC's  
Flotilla 1-7 Reports 30 VSC's

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

VSC count includes 2 facilities examined this period.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:**

No specific plans at this time, but activities to continue.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 362**

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 477**

**-DIVISION 3 CENTRAL VALLEY (James Goff SO-VE)**

Vessel Safety Checks:

Flotilla 3-1 **NO REPORT SUBMITTED**  
Flotilla 3-5 Reports 28 VSC's  
Flotilla 3-10 **NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

Flotilla 3-3 **NO REPORT SUBMITTED**  
Flotilla 3-9 **NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

VSC events and effort continue as normal.

**Activities planned for next 30 days:**

VE events planned at Discovery Park on July 26th, and on August 9<sup>th</sup> for Sacramento Marina Appreciation Day. Flotilla 3-10 plans an event with Sacramento Radio One, no date yet.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 267**

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 239**

**-DIVISION 4 San Francisco SOUTH BAY (Joaquin Duran SO-VE)**

Vessel Safety Checks:

Flotilla 4-1 Reports 0 VSC's  
Flotilla 4-6 Reports 12 VSC's  
Flotilla 4-9 Reports 5 VSC's

Flotilla 4-3 Reports 0 VSC's  
Flotilla 4-8 Reports 0 VSC's

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

Activities seriously curtailed by Zebra mussel problem and temporary closing of South County lakes. Boating has re-opened and VSC effort just re-started.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:**

VSC event planned for July 12<sup>th</sup> at Anderson Lake.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 284**

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 506**

**-DIVISION 5 SUISIN BAY (Robert Smith SO-VE)**

**Vessel safety checks: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 5-1 Reports**

**Flotilla 5-3 Reports**

**Flotilla 5-7 Reports**

**Flotilla 5-2 Reports**

**Flotilla 5-5 Reports**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

**Activities planned for next 30 days:**

**VSC COUNT YTD: 491\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 487\***

**-DIVISION 6 MONTEREY BAY (Stan Wolfberg SO-VE)**

**Vessel safety checks:**

**Flotilla 6-1 Reports 22 VSC's**

**Flotilla 6-7 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 6- 4 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 6-10 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

Flotilla 6-1 reports majority of VSC's performed at Discovery Park in Sacramento and other locations.

**Activities planned for next 30 days: none**

**VSC COUNT YTD: 311\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 191\***

**-DIVISION 7 UTAH (Riley Turpin SO-VE)**

**Vessel Safety Checks:**

**Flotilla 7-2 Reports 11 VSC's**

**Flotilla 7-6 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 7-3 Reports 0 VSC's**

**Flotilla 7-8 Reports 3 VSC's**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

Conducted VSC's as normal.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:**

No comments.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 103**

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 56**

**-DIVISION 8 NORTH COAST: (Douglas R. Pohlson SO-VE)**

**Vessel Safety Checks: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 8-6 Reports**

**Flotilla 8-8 Reports**

**Flotilla 8-7 Reports**

**Flotilla 8-11**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:**

**VSC COUNT YTD: 158\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 225\***

**-DIVISION 10 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY: (none on record)**

**Vessel Safety Checks: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 10-2 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 10-5 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 10-3 Reports 56 VSC's**

**Flotilla 10-6 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** Flotilla 10-03 performed 56 Vessel Safety checks...

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:** Flotilla 10-03 plans VSC stations 7/19, at New Melones and 7/16 at New Hogan.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 946\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 1270\***

**NOTE: No SO-VE of record. Above information was supplied directly to DSO-VE by FSO-VE 10-3.**

**-DIVISION 11 SIERRA: (Ray Ellen Wise SO-VE)**

**Vessel Safety Checks:**

**Flotilla 11-1** Reports 66 VSC's

**Flotilla 11-3 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 11-4** Reports 28 VSC's

**Flotilla 11-5** Reports 14 VSC's

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

Flotilla 11-1 organized three VSC events in June; at Meeks Bay, Donner Lake at the invitation of Truckee Police Department, and Lake Forest.

**Activities planned for next 30 days:**

Noticed lower boating activity this year probably due to price of gas. Expect more boaters during 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 113**

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 317**

**-DIVISION 12 EAST BAY: (Richard Scheuerman SO-VE)**

**Vessel Safety Checks:**

Division 12 reports 56 VSC's, but with no breakdown by flotillas. No other comments.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 155**

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 94**

\*As shown in AUXINFO thru June 30, 2008.

** District Statistics\***

**YTD DISTRICT VSC COUNT: 3162\*      PYTD DISTRICT VSC COUNT: 3888\***

We are 42% of the District goal of 7,500 VSC's and 81% of 2007 production. Stats from AUXINFO\* indicate that 1916 or 61% of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition 1667 or 53% are High Risk VSC's.

\*As shown in AUXINFO thru June 30, 2008.

** VSC Calendar**

-National Marina Day-August 9<sup>th</sup>

-Vessel examiner Class at the PCA Fair August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>-Coast Guard Island

** District/National News**

**-Please pass the word that once again the Vessel Examiner class is coming to PCA Fair over the weekend of August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The 2-day class includes the final exam and a VSC demo on a vessel. Many handouts will be provided. This class is a great bargain at \$5.00 and an excellent opportunity for new members to get involved in the Auxiliary. The member is required to bring a copy of the VSC Manual and review the material prior to class. A copy of the VSC Manual is available for download on the D11NR Vessel Examiner website:**

**<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. Additional arrangements can be made at the class to perform the 5 VSC's to complete the qualification. If there are any questions, please have the member contact me at [sumfun@juno.com](mailto:sumfun@juno.com).**

**-Boat Fatalities drop to Near-Record Low.** Boating fatalities in 2007 dropped to their lowest number in three years and third lowest ever, according to figures published by the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety. There were 688 boating deaths last year, down from 710 in 2006. In 2004, boating fatalities hit an all-time low of 676-the least number ever recorded since records were 1<sup>st</sup> kept in the early 70's. By comparison, in 1973 some 1,754 boaters died in accidents. Overall, the trend has been downward for more than 30 years. More information is available in the July 2008 of BOAT/US Magazine.

Source: BOAT/US-July 2008

**-ORION has become an RBS partner with the Auxiliary.** They are providing materials to help educate the boater with regard to pyro VDS. The following is now available at ANSC:

ANSC#3024 - Pamphlet, Saved by the Signal (Visual Distress): A four-page pamphlet that summarizes Coast Guard Visual Distress Signal (VDS) requirements, a safety check list, the types of VDS and a true story: "A Flare for Rescue"

ANSC#3025 - Pyrotechnics Distance (Visual Distress) laminated two sided: An 11" X 9" teaching aid. Contains a Marine Visual Distress Signal (VDS) Guide and performance characteristics for various types of VDS.

ANSC#3504 - Poster, Vessel Safety Check (NO Change to current description)

Source: Pete Urgola DC-V

**-Orion Flare Launcher Recall Reminder**

I recently checked a boat that had a defective flare launcher pistol. All examiners should be checking every flare gun they find to assure it will smoothly open and close far enough to insert a flare cartridge-do NOT insert a cartridge! The defective guns will have a warped barrel. For those that don't remember or weren't around, for your reference I'm posting the recall as written in BOAT/US from summer 2001: "A defective opening mechanism in some 12-gauge plastic flare guns manufactured by Olin (now Orion Safety Products) prior to 2000 may not open wide enough to accept a flare cartridge. Guns with a modification to correct the possible problem are marked with U.S. Coast Guard approval code 160 028//12/1. Boaters with older flare guns should check the operation of the opening mechanism now and at the start of each boating season. If the breech will not open wide enough to accept a cartridge, the gun should be sent back for a replacement." Send defective guns to:

ORION SAFETY PRODUCTS, MARINE DIVISION

3157N. 500W

PERU, IN 46970

1-800-851-5260

For future reference, a copy of this notice will be on the D11NR website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>.

-Phil Grove DSO-PV has announced that he will have a ½ day Program Visitor class at the August PCA Fair. For more information about the class and scheduling, you can contact Phil at: [groventer@aol.com](mailto:groventer@aol.com).

-In the continuing evolution to provide information to assist both the new and experienced vessel examiners, there have several NEW additions and updates on YOUR Vessel Examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>.

**-Please share this report with your FSO-VE's and local examiners. In addition to other important information, you can always find a copy on the District website:**

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>.

**-As always, if Joaquin or I can be of ANY assistance to any DCP or SO-VE, I hope there will be no hesitation to contact us. Working together we can once again make D11NR one of the top VSC performers nationwide for 2008!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Lauro DSO-VE

Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE



Let's work together for our safety and the safety of others by setting an example and wear our lifejackets while performing VSC's especially when working around docks and when climbing aboard large vessels!

