



COMDTINST 9091.1  
07 MAR 2014

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 9091.1

Subj: SHIPBOARD FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE MARSHAL INSTRUCTION

- Ref: (a) Shipboard Fire Prevention and Fire Marshal Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, CGTTP 3-91.4  
 (b) Shipboard Regulations Manual, COMDTINST M5000.7 (series)  
 (c) Naval Engineering Manual, COMDTINST M9000.6 (series)  
 (d) Machinery Space Firefighting Doctrine for Class Bravo Fires, COMDTINST M9555.1 (series)  
 (e) Surface Ship Survivability, NTTP/CGTTP 3-20.31 (series)  
 (f) Naval Ships' Technical Manual (NSTM), Chapter 550: Industrial Gases-Generating, Handling, and Storage, S9086-SX-STM-010 (series)  
 (g) Naval Ships' Technical Manual (NSTM), Chapter 555, Volume 1: Surface Ship Firefighting, S9086-S3-STM-010 (series)  
 (h) Personnel Qualification Standard for Damage Control (DC), Naval Education and Training Command (NAVEDTRA) 43119 (series)

- PURPOSE. This Instruction dictates standards and expectations that shall be followed onboard all U.S. Coast Guard cutters to prevent shipboard fires. Command Fire Marshal and duty Fire Marshal(s) duties and responsibilities are also contained herein. Reference (a) details specific techniques and procedures to satisfy this policy.
- ACTION. The provisions of this Instruction apply to all U.S. Coast Guard Cutters. Internet release is authorized.
- DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.

DISTRIBUTION - SDL No. 163

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

4. DISCUSSION.

- a. References (b) through (d) mandate robust fire prevention programs. A shipboard fire can easily spiral out of control, jeopardizing a cutter's ability to perform missions while immediately endangering all personnel onboard. Preventing a fire from occurring is far less hazardous and less costly than engaging, extinguishing, and restoring damaged systems in a compartment that has been engulfed in flames. Reference (e) contains the best guidance on military shipboard firefighting available today and, as such, forms the foundation of shipboard fire prevention and firefighting knowledge. The training requirements detailed in reference (e) set the minimum standards necessary to ensure all personnel are adequately prepared for this extremely hazardous event. While each ship might differ in the type and allowance of firefighting equipment, fire prevention policies and programs are universally applicable onboard all Coast Guard cutters.
- b. Reference (a) provides a consolidated source of predetermined forms, check sheets, and procedures to establish and maintain a successful shipboard fire prevention program.

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it in itself a rule. It is intended to provide guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.

- a. The development of this directive and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office and are categorically excluded under current USCG categorical exclusion (CE) #33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with section 2.B.2 and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series).
- b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Instruction must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Policy NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.

7. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Instruction. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites:

Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>

CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not have any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
9. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES.
  - a. All hands assigned to cutters shall review this Instruction. Fire prevention is an activity applicable to all shipboard watch stations, and crew knowledge shall be validated during all qualification boards and training cycles.
  - b. All hands are responsible for eliminating and reducing fire and explosion hazards, including nonessential combustibles.
  - c. The use of open flame devices (i.e., butane lighters) are not authorized onboard cutters due to the extremely low flash point of their fuel. Refillable wick-based lighters are authorized, but the fuel to refill these devices shall only be stored in approved flammable storage locker(s).
  - d. Report inoperable damage control equipment or damage control equipment beyond its prescribed maintenance periodicity to the Fire Marshal. This equipment shall be repaired or have the necessary maintenance performed immediately.
  - e. Report all compressed gas cylinders that are not properly secured as prescribed by reference (f).
  - f. Per reference (g), the Commanding Officer (CO) shall ensure that unauthorized or unapproved wood, bedding materials, upholstery, plastics, fibrous materials, paints, coatings, tile and adhesives, paneling, false bulkheads or overheads are not installed or carried in the cutter. All habitability materials shall comply with the fire performance requirements of Fire Performance Requirements and Approved Specifications for Interior Finish Materials and Furnishings (Naval Shipboard Use), MIL-STD-1623.
10. FIRE MARSHAL RESPONSIBILITIES.
  - a. The Fire Marshal and duty Fire Marshal(s) shall be designated in writing. Sample designation memorandums are contained in reference (a).
  - b. For cutters 210' or greater, the Fire Marshal shall be gas free engineer (GFE), repair locker leader (RLL), and damage control training team (DCTT) qualified. For cutters less than 210', Fire Marshal requirements shall be met through multiple positions, with the Engineer Petty Officer (EPO) designated as the command Fire Marshal.
  - c. Duty Fire Marshals shall be damage control qualified per reference (h).

- d. The Fire Marshal or duty Fire Marshal(s) shall inspect the ship using procedures found in reference (a).

11. FIRE MARSHAL WATCHSTANDING/PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- a. Per reference (e), the Fire Marshal shall be free of duties that would inhibit responding instantaneously to emergencies. Specifically, the Fire Marshal shall act as leader of the flying squad or rapid response team while underway, and might act as a rover to assist the DCA during General Quarters (GQ) and General Emergency (GE). At the CO's discretion, the Fire Marshal can be excluded from the watch schedule.
- b. To support their leadership role on the rapid response team, the Fire Marshal shall wear or have on his/her person at all times approved shipboard boots and fire retardant coveralls or full Coast Guard Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) (shirt and trousers).

12. LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT AGREEMENTS.

- a. Each cutter shall develop Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) with local fire departments for when outside firefighting assistance is required inport. The local fire department can be a base, county, state, volunteer, or other fire department or organization as determined by the CO.
- b. At a minimum, the MOA should detail assistance required of the local fire department during fires and other emergency situations. It should also address arrangements for carrying out routine cutter familiarization and hazard identification training with the local fire department at least every 6 months. Coordinate local fire department cutter familiarization with other cutters inport to minimize the impact on fire department assets.
- c. A sample fire department agreement is contained in reference (a).

13. MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITIES (DOCKSIDE/DRYDOCK) REQUIREMENTS.

Prior to scheduled overhauls and planned or unplanned maintenance availabilities, the Fire Marshal shall:

- a. Properly train, qualify, and equip all fire watch personnel, emphasizing maintenance availability hazards.
- b. Ensure all fire watch personnel are issued appropriate PPE.
- c. Make rounds of all hot work being conducted onboard and in the vicinity of the cutter. Identify and address all safety issues.
- d. Ensure all hot work certificates and appropriate DC plates are properly posted.

14. ABSENCE REQUIREMENTS. If the Fire Marshal will be absent from the cutter, responsibility shall be assigned to a qualified member (i.e., DCA , EO/EPO etc.).
15. FORMS/REPORTS. None.
16. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals can recommend changes by email via their chain of the command to Commandant (CG-452).

R. J. RÁBAGO /s/  
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Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics