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14 Apr 2009

MEMORANDUM

From: P. D. Bellona
CGD13 (dpa)

Reply to
Attn of:

To: D13 Auxiliary

Subj: PEPIRB REGISTRATION INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Ref: (a) ALCOAST 572 PEPIRB/EPIRB Carriage Requirements for CG Auxiliary Boats

1. **Purpose.** To provide policy and guidance to all Auxiliary Facility Owners/Coxswains in the Thirteenth CG District concerning the use and accountability for PEPIRBs (Personal Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon's).

2. **Directives Affected.** None.

3. **Discussion.**

a. **Requirements.** Per reference (a) "effective 01 Jun 2004 all auxiliary surface facilities including personal water craft (PWC) while underway on orders shall have a minimum of one crew member per vessel carrying a MCMURDO FASTFIND 406 PEPIRB if the vessel is not outfitted with a category I or II, 406 EPIRB." DIRAUX, Thirteenth District has determined that the most effective method to accomplish the requirement is to equip each Coast Guard Auxiliary Facility (Operator or Owner of Facility) with a PEPIRB. The coxswain or a designated crew member on board the facility will carry the PEPIRB in their Survival Vest or Life Jacket while underway.

b. **Accountability.** Each member issued a PEPIRB shall sign it out on the AF-538 Form (Personal Clothing and Equipment Record) and shall be included on a master Excel PEPIRB List maintained at DIRAUX. If a member loses certification, transfers to another District, leaves or retires from the Auxiliary, the PEPIRB shall be returned to DIRAUX for re-issue to another member.

c. **Member Responsibility.**

(1) Familiarize themselves with all applicable instructions contained in the FastFind PEPIRB owner's manual.

(2) Register the PEPIRB with NOAA. NOAA sends out bi-annual verification to ensure that information is kept up to date.

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(3) Ensure the unit is maintained, including the battery replacement IAW manufacturer's specifications. Battery replacement (at the members request) and other maintenance will be the responsibility of DIRAUX. Battery life is listed as 5 years, but will last longer.

(4) Provide NOAA with any information which may influence the registration.

(5) Provide DIRAUX with information concerning intentions to leave the District or dis-enroll from the Auxiliary or Surface Ops Program.

(6) Return your PEPIRB promptly to DIRAUX.

d. Registration Form. While property of the Coast Guard, these PEPIRBs are being issued to individual Auxiliary members and should be registered as such. The following information is for use when filling out the NOAA Official 406MHz EPIRB Registration Form.

(1) **Owner Information**: Should reflect the member's personal information.

(2) **Vessel Information**: No vessel information should be included in this Section even if you own the vessel. In **Block 9** check the "other" block and indicate PEPIRB REGISTRATION INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY "U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DISTRICT 13". This is because the Auxiliary Coxswain may find themselves on another vessel and can use the PEPIRB on that vessel too. In **Block 18** indicate "D13 COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, FLOTILLA xx". All other blocks in this section should be left blank.

(3) **Emergency Contact Information**: This information is very important and should be preferably someone who will know your activities, as well as your whereabouts. In **Block 21** indicate D12 Command Center (RCC) and in **Block 22** indicate (206) 220-7001 which is the RCC phone number.

e. Warranty Form. All members should complete the warranty form and send it to the manufacturer. The following information is for use when filling out the Warranty Form.

(1) **Owner Block**: Should reflect the member as the owner.

(2) **Dealer Block**: Include U.S. COAST GUARD and purchase date should be the date the member receives the PEPIRB.

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(3) **Detail Block:** Indicate New Issue by U. S. Coast Guard if it is a new unit or Transferred from another Auxiliary member.

f. While these PEPiRBs are the property of the U. S. Coast Guard, it is recognized that they are one of the most important pieces of lifesaving equipment that may be found on board the vessel. Therefore, the PEPiRB use is authorized while underway on pleasure voyages as well as while conducting Auxiliary patrols.

4. **Action.** All members issued a PEPiRB will comply with the contents of this Directive.
5. **Responsibility.** DIRAUX is responsible for implementing any changes to this program.