THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Washington, DC 20593

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT

The Coast Guard has a proud and distinguished history of *Service to Nation*. To sustain mission excellence, our people must answer calls to action with selfless performance when the alarm sounds. The dynamic nature of our operations is inherently hazardous, and can test personal limits and operational capabilities. Our *Duty to People* requires constant vigilance toward the safety and environmental health of our members and the public we serve. *Commitment to Excellence* demands continuous identification and mitigation of hazards through deliberate risk assessment and sound on-scene judgment. Taking unnecessary risk will not be tolerated.

I expect all leaders to exercise sound risk management principles to balance the level of risk warranted for successful mission execution against the potential consequences of failure. We must leverage mistakes as teachable moments. This is only possible in an inclusive environment where members are encouraged to report hazards without fear of reprisal. Without open reporting, we miss opportunities to correct deficiencies that when left unchecked, may result in catastrophic failures or loss of life. We grow our safety culture and build mutual trust when peers, mentors, and leaders openly discuss errors and coach at-risk behavior.

Every commanding officer, officer-in-charge, and supervisor will ensure risk management principles are incorporated into the planning and execution of every activity and mission. Safety is a team effort, and every member is responsible and accountable for identifying and reporting hazards, and managing risk both on and off duty. These responsibilities cannot be delegated and must not be compromised.

Our *Duty to People* demands a safe and healthy work environment. To uphold our ethos of protecting others, we must start by protecting ourselves.

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