



**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
 District 11 Northern Region  
 Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



## Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

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### DSO Comments

By Mike Lauro



Now that spring has past and the VSC season is in full swing, I'd like to take a minute to remind everyone about the mission

of the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety program and some basic etiquette that we tend to forget about while at the ramp. From our VSC Manual, "The mission of the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety program is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats. The Vessel Safety Check program helps support this mission with voluntary **examinations (NOT INSPECTIONS)** to assure compliance of both federal and state safety laws regarding the carriage of safety equipment." As a result of our unique relationship with the Coast Guard, in many instances the public perceives us as the Coast Guard and as boating safety experts. As a result, we have responsibility to share our knowledge with the boater about the benefits of having the correct safety

equipment and boating safety in general. So, be professional, informed, prepared, courteous, and properly dressed in the the uniform of the day. That brings me to the issue of examiner etiquette. Many times while at the ramp, we forget that our voices carry, we lean on a vehicle or a boat, smoke, use profanity, etc. Sometimes we are not aware that we have a bad habit unless someone tells us. So as a result, you can find a copy of "Examiner Etiquette" here in the Newsletter, but better yet, take a minute to go to the District Vessel Examiner website

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html> and print out "Examiner Etiquette" under "D11NR Vessel Examiner Information" and place a copy in your clipboard as a reminder. Many times we all need a quick reminder to treat people and their equipment as though it's our own.

Don't forget to remind your new flotilla members about the Vessel Examiner class at the PCA Training Fair over the weekend of August 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

As always, your comments are welcome.

## ADSO Comments

By Joaquin Duran



Fellow examiners, I'd like to take a minute to discuss the correct placement of the VSC decal on a vessel.

Once all items in the left hand side of form ANSC 7012 have been verified, and after the successful completion of the vessel safety check, a decal shall be awarded. The Vessel Examiner shall immediately affix the decal or have the vessel owner affix in your presence, as the decal is not transferable. Many times, boaters who are awarded the decal insist they will place it later on e.g. after the boat has been cleaned. This is unacceptable. To eliminate this situation, it's a good idea to carry a damp rag to clean the location and a window scrapper to remove any previous decals. It's important that the decal be affixed in a location that will not interfere with or obscure the operator or passengers view and be readily visible to authorities while underway. This is generally in the lower forward corner of a **portside** window or a lower corner on the portside of the windshield. If no window is available or the operator has an objection, it may be affixed to the dashboard or the back of the seat. It should however be only

affixed to permanently installed equipment. At times, boat operators may prefer the decal be placed along the registration numbers in the forward side of the hull. If so desired, the decal should be placed at least three-six inches away from the state registration decal sticker that follows the registration numbers, although this is not a preferred location.

The VSC decal is only valid until December 31st of the year in which it is awarded. The Vessel Examiner shall ensure that only one decal is displayed at one time. Believe it or not, the size of the decal varies a bit from year to year, so old decals should be removed before affixing the new one.

**A strict accounting of decals should be required by each FSO-VE or Flotilla Commander** so that there is not a local shortage as in years past.

One final comment about the decal placement, PLEASE do NOT place the decal on any plastic windows on either an older vessel or a bass boat! The removal of the decal can sometimes be very messy and if you try to remove the decal with a razor blade, you risk scratching the plastic. If you are lucky enough to remove the old decal, you have the potential to leave a gooey mess with little or no hope of removing it!

This leaves the boat owner with a poor impression of the VSC program and the previous examiner.

## Bet You didn't Know...

Pipe Down meant stop talking and be quiet. The Pipe Down was the last signal from the Boson's pipe each day, which meant lights out and silence.

## VSC Calendar-2010

-Past Captains Training Fair- Coast Guard Island-August 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Congratulations!** -New Feature!

Each month RBS Device recipients will be listed here! This information is supplied by the Director's office as members become qualified.

James R. Goff

03-05

### **Examiner Etiquette**

- 1-Wear the proper uniform and wear it CORRECTLY. If with other examiners, try to wear the same uniform.
- 2-Don't ask if the boater would like a vessel safety check-they'll probably say NO!!! Explain the VSC and politely direct them to the examination area.
- 3-When greeting the boater, do NOT lean on their truck.
- 4-Do NOT use the word INSPECTION! The VSC is an examination-not an inspection!
- 5-When discussing safety, make eye contact with BOTH the driver and the passenger especially when children are present.
- 6-Do not stand on the boat trailer to look in vessel unless you ask.
- 7-Do not put your clipboard or lean on the boat.
- 8-Answer questions truthfully and be prepared to substantiate the answer. Do NOT guess! It is better to not know than to guess. Know your local state boating regulations and Federal Requirements booklets.
- 9-Limit the examination to 10-15 minutes for trailer boaters-20 to 30 minutes for large vessels.
- 10-On large vessels ask permission PRIOR to boarding-ASK and be prepared to remove your shoes!
- 11-Do NOT SMOKE at the VSC station or around boaters while in uniform!
- 12- Do not discuss any prior VSC activity with other examiners when other boaters are in the area. Your voice travels and you never know who may over hear your comments. Do NOT use profanity!
- 13-While not required by law, remove life jackets from plastic bags and YOU dispose of the bags.
- 14-If you promise a return call, be sure to follow up.
- 15-Always find something to compliment the boater.
- 16-Pass or fail, shake the owners hand, congratulate and thank him on a job well done. If the boater fails, offer a recheck and thank him for their time.
- 17-Above all else-BE POLITE! MAY I, PLEASE, and THANK YOU go a long way.

### **Wear It California! Schedule** -New Feature!

-July 3	Tower Park Marina	Lodi
-July 17	Russo's Marina	Bethel Island
-Jul 31	Vieira's Resort	Isleton
-Aug 14	Walnut Grove Marina	Walnut Grove
-Aug 28	Village West Marina	Stockton
-Sept 4	Lauritzen Yacht Harbor	Oakley

The schedule is tentative and is subject to possible change.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following examiners who have performed 20 or more VSC's this past month during 2010\*:

Arthur A. Park	01-05	Jeff D. Scarberry	03-09
Paul S. Verveniotis	04-03	Joaquin P. Duran	04-09
William A. Yawn III	05-01	Steven M. Johnson	05-01
Joseph A. Cuputo	05-02	Curtis S. Han	05-02
Ronald A. Kram	05-05	Wilfred A. Sumner	05-05
Margaret R. Balch	05-07	Riley A. Turpin	07-02
Joyce W. Bell	07-08	Thomas P. O'Conner	08-06
Marion A. Rider	10-03	Robert P. Mero	10-05
Steven W. Dicken	10-06	Diana D. Kincade	11-01
Victor Beelik	11-04	James L. Snell	11-04
Dennis F. Hogan	11-04	Ricky A. Thomas	11-05
John R. Kane	12-21		

This brings our total to **52** examiners reaching this plateau!! **JUNE 2010** has had the **MOST** examiners **EVER** reaching this level! This puts the District on a record pace! This is approximately 17% of the total District examiner base. 2009 had 38 examiners or 13% at this time. Where's your name?

PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru June 28, 2010

## Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Albert C. Rugo	01-07	Karen J. Mercado	03-03
Michael K. Fiamingo	04-01	Donald G. Wyman*	03-05
William R. Shepard	04-08	Charles C. Lafferty*	05-01
Lawrence M. Osborne	06-01	Edward W. Wright	08-11
Robert P. Mero	10-05		

\*Re-certification

\*\*from the February 2010 PCA class!

With the addition of these 7 new and re-certified examiners for 2010, our examiner base total is now **304** active examiners! This represents about 20% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

 VSC Questions - Answers can be found in another location in the newsletter

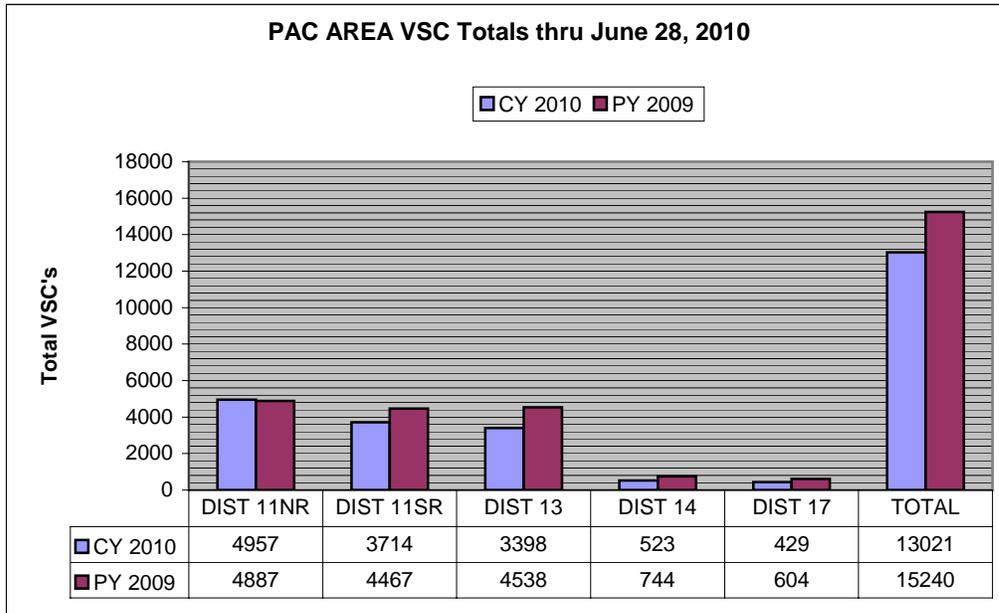
**1-One or more MARPOL Trash Placards must be posted in a prominent place visible to all passengers and crew in boats:**

- a. 65' and longer
- b. 39.4' and longer
- c. 26' and longer
- d. 16' and longer

**2-Kicker hooks (skiff hook) on Operational Facilities:**

- a. Are not recommended by the Director
- b. Are recommended by the DSO-OP's
- c. May be waived by the District Commander
- d. Are not necessary on Operational Facilities.

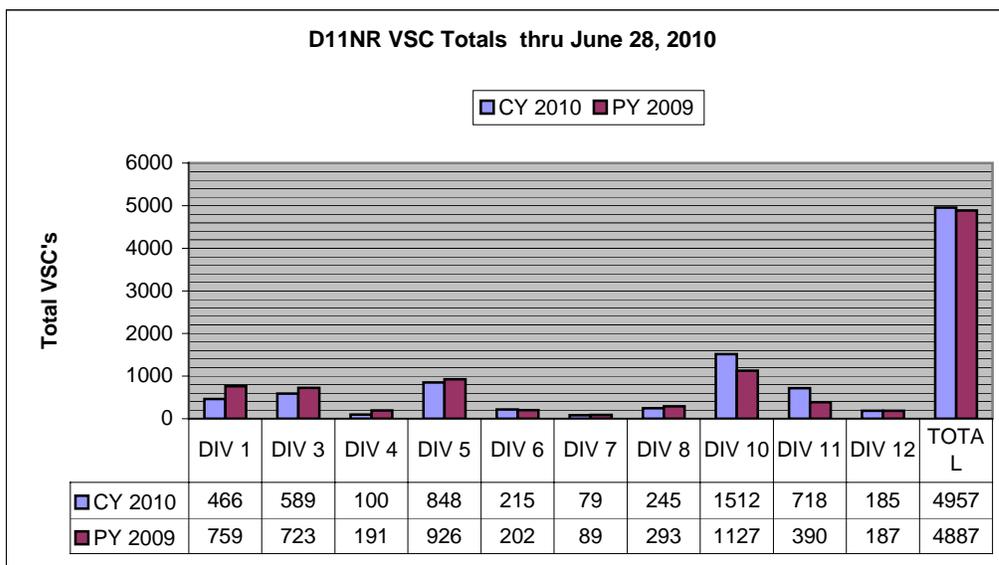
**PAC AREA 2010 Statistics\***



\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru June 28, 2010

**NOTICE** that once again D11NR continues to lead the PAC AREA and is the **ONLY** District showing an improvement over 2009!

**D11NR 2010 Statistics\***



The goal for D11NR for 2010 is **10,000 VSC's**. We are **50%** of our goal for the year and **101%** of 2009 production! The data source is AUXINFO. PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

Additional stats from AUXINFO\* indicates that **2592** or **52%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **3164** or **64%** are High Risk VSC's.

\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru June 28, 2010

## **National and District News**

### **District News**

-A special request from the Director's office; PLEASE have the qualifying members 7038 with the 5 VSC's entered into AUXDATA by the FSO/SO-IS **PRIOR** to submission of the MT-2 to the Director's office.

-When performing a VSC with the new 7012A, please give the boater the form and record your information on a separate 7038. At some point, please email me at: [sumfun@juno.com](mailto:sumfun@juno.com) with the total number of VSC's you've performed with the new form. This information along with any comments or suggestions you may have will be forwarded to the national level.

-**Attention ALL California Vessel Examiners:** CAL Boating has asked me to make you aware that many promotional and printed materials this year including the Calif. ABC's, whistles, coloring books, ski flags, etc. are in a **very limited supply**. Many orders may **NOT** be fully filled so that materials are distributed evenly. With this in mind, please keep this in mind when passing out materials at PA booths and during VSC's.

Source: Melissa Langland Calif. Dept of Boating and Waterways

-**Effective January 1, 2010**, anyone who qualifies for the RBS device will NOT have to wait until the end of the year to receive the device. Thanks to YN3 Stacy Curtin of the DIRAUX office, when you qualify for the device, it will be awarded on a timely basis-in approx 30 days. As the Coxswain device, Marine Safety device, and all other ribbons and medals, it will be forwarded to your Flotilla Commander for presentation.

-In addition to updated information on flares, the District Vessel Examiner site: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. has undergone some minor changes and improvements to make it a bit more user friendly. Of the many changes, for ease of use, the "AUXINFO" link has been made larger and a brighter color.

### **National News**

-**ATTENTION NEW Vessel Examiners!!!**

Now that you've passed the Vessel Examiner Exam, we want to introduce you to the "I Want a VSC" system. The I Want a VSC system is a volunteer system located at <http://safetyseal.net> where web visitors can enter their ZIP Code and find a volunteer examiner near their boat. Take a few minutes and see how it works by entering your

ZIP Code.

We want to encourage you to join the I Want a VSC system after you've completed the qualification process and become qualified as a Vessel Examiner. The sign-up is on the National V Departments Members side of the site at <http://safetyseal.net/index3.asp>. We should also point out that the sign-up for the National V Department mail list is on that page as well and as a member you will receive the V Departments newsletters as well as important information from time to time.

Please help spread the word to other examiners in your area who may not know of this tool as well.

Source: Paul Mayer, DVC-VC

-In the continuing evolution to provide information to assist both the new and experienced vessel examiners, there have several NEW additions and updates for 2010 on YOUR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>.

Expect to see many more exciting changes for 2010!

Question 1-"c" See page 25 of the VSC Manual

Question 2-"c" See the 7003 form

**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!**



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