



16798
31 OCT 2003

Thirteenth Coast Guard District Auxiliary Policy Directive OP-01

Subj: PEPIRB 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 Coxswain's in the Thirteenth District concerning the use and accountability for Personal Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon's (PEPIRB)'s
2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED**. None.
3. **DISCUSSION**.
 - a. **Requirements**. Reference (a) states "effective 01 June 2004 all auxiliary surface facilities including personal water craft (PWC) while underway on orders shall have a minimum of one crewmember per vessel carrying a MCMURDO FASTFIND 406 PEPIRB if the vessel is not outfitted with a category I or II, 406 EPIRB." Thirteenth District, Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) has determined that the most effective method to accomplish the requirement stated in reference (a) is to equip each Auxiliary Coxswain with a PEPIRB, considering every Auxiliary facility underway while on orders must have a certified Auxiliary Coxswain on board.
 - b. **Accountability**. Each Coxswain issued a PEPIRB shall be included on a master PEPIRB list maintained at DIRAUX . The list will contain information including: members name, member address. PEPIRB serial number, PEPIRB registration number, member's emergency contact number, date of issue, and information concerning returning the unit back to 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 Coxswain.
 - c. **Member's Responsibility**. Each Coxswain issued a PEPIRB shall be responsible to:
 1. Thoroughly familiarize themselves with all applicable instructions contained in the "Fastfind PEPIRB" owners manual.
 2. Return a copy of the completed EPIRB Registration Form to **DIRAUX**, as well as to NOAA at the address provided on the registration form. Provide updated information to both DIRAUX and NOAA concerning change of emergency numbers, and change of address. NOAA may request bi-annual verification and if this happens, forward a copy to DIRAUX. Providing a signed copy of this form to DIRAUX shall be used to acknowledge receipt of the PEPIRB.

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3. Assure the unit is maintained, including battery replacement IAW manufacturers specification. Battery replacement (at the members request) and any other expense will be the responsibility of DIRAUX.
 4. Battery life is 5 years. DIRAUX will track this, and mail replacements at least 3 months prior to expiration date. It is the member's responsibility to contact DIRAUX if a replacement battery has not been received within this time frame.
 5. Provide NOAA and DIRAUX with any information, which may influence the registration of the PEPIRB.
 6. Provide DIRAUX with information concerning intentions to leave the district, or disenroll from the Coxswain program.
 7. Return the PEPIRB promptly to DIRAUX if requested.
- d. Registration Form. While property of the U.S. 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. Be sure to send a copy of this form to DIRAUX as well as the NOAA address printed on the form.
1. **Owner Information:** Should reflect member's personal information.
 2. **Vessel Information: No vessel information should be included in this section (even if you own a vessel).** In Block 9 check "other" and indicate "US COAST GUARD AUXILARY DISTRICT 13". This is because Auxiliary Coxswains can find themselves on any number of vessels. In Block 18 indicate "D13 Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla xxx". 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, and whereabouts. The alternate 24-hour Emergency Contact should be the D13 Command Center (RCC) phone number (206) 220-7001.
- e. Warranty Form. All Auxiliarists shall complete the warranty form and send it to the manufacturer. Further, all PEPIRBs shall be used in accordance with manufacturers instructions. The following information is for use when filling out the Warranty Form included with the PEPIRB and should be returned to the Manufacturer with a copy to DIRAUX:
1. **Owner block:** Should reflect the member as the owner.
 2. **Dealer block:** Include U.S. Coast Guard, purchase date should reflect the date member receives unit.

3. **Detail block:** Indicate “new issue by U.S. Coast Guard

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- f. Usage. While these PEPIRBS are 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 a vessel. Therefore, **their use is authorized while underway on pleasure voyages** as well as while conducting Auxiliary patrols.
4. **ACTION**. All Auxiliary Coxswains issued a PEPIRB will comply with the contents of this Directive. A copy of this Directive will be provided to each Coxswain receiving a PEPIRB.
5. **RESPONSIBILITY**. DIRAUX is responsible for implementing changes to this program.

KELLY A. BOODELL
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Director of Auxiliary
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