

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 21, 2017
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Harbor Operations Report**

MICROBURST STORM CELL STRIKES THE WATERFRONT

On Sunday, September 3rd, a microburst storm cell struck the Waterfront with blinding rain and wind gusts to 80 miles per hour, sinking one boat, injuring at least three people, and pitching 17 more off paddleboards and kayaks into the harbor. Harbor Patrol safely rescued all 17 stranded boaters, though a 16-year-old girl walking near Sea Landing was severely injured by flying outrigger debris and ultimately airlifted to a Los Angeles-area hospital for treatment. One man was also injured by an airborne SUP, and one woman sustained injury falling in a rush to escape the tempest.

Locals say they've never seen anything like it. The two-minute weather event behaved like a Midwest storm in that short span, gusts spun boats in circles, even lifting a berthed vessel upward until its keel showed and only its dock lines kept it from "taking off." It scattered and broke West Beach outriggers like toothpicks, bent flag poles on Stearns Wharf, and ripped out two trees in the Harbor Main Parking Lot, which landed on cars. In the harbor, it bent masts, tore sails, ripped Bimini-top canvas covers and Isinglass like tissue paper, ripped out shore-power plugs and scattered loose kayaks, SUPs and surfboards in all directions.

NEW CALIFORNIA BOATING LAW TAKES EFFECT JANUARY 1st, 2018

For California's four million recreational boaters, January 1, 2018 brings significant change, as the state begins implementing a law requiring boaters to carry a vessel operator card (California Boater Card—CBC) while operating a recreational motorized boat on California waterways. On January 1st, the legislation takes effect for boaters under 20 years old, then gradually expands to all boaters by 2025.

Until now, California was one of only five states not requiring boater certification or a boating license to operate motor-driven watercraft. Senate Bill 941, passed in 2014, aims to change that status while promoting boating safety. To receive a CBC, boaters must complete boater safety training and pass a written test.

The CBC requirement will be implemented in eight phases. As noted above, Phase 1 begins January 1st. At the start of each following year, another segment of the population must complete the education process to continue boating legally.

This phase-in process will continue through 2025, when anyone operating a vessel must possess a CBC:

- January 1, 2018 – Persons 20 years old or younger
- January 1, 2019 – Persons 25 years old or younger
- January 1, 2020 – Persons 35 years old or younger
- January 1, 2021 – Persons 40 years old or younger
- January 1, 2022 – Persons 45 years old or younger
- January 1, 2023 – Persons 50 years old or younger
- January 1, 2024 – Persons 60 years old or younger
- January 1, 2025 – All persons regardless of age

Exceptions to this law include persons operating a rented vessel. Additional exemptions can be found at www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com. The site also provides other essential CBC information about the application process, nature and location of boating courses, and online testing. The CBC costs \$10 and replacement for lost cards cost \$5 each.

HARBOR AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Circle your calendars! The 16th annual Harbor and Seafood Festival will take place from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 14th. If you loved last year's festival, you'll love this one, too. We've got it all again this year—fresh crab, lobster, oysters, mussels, and barbecued albacore, plus paella, sea urchin “uni,” fish tacos, Brophy Bros' clam chowder and more. Then there's great music (three bands), 40+ arts and craft vendors, tall-ship tours, Coast Guard Cutter and Harbor Patrol Boat tours, touch tanks, free boat rides and maritime education booths. Festival admission is free and is presented by the City, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc., Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants' Association, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Find directions and parking details and more at www.HarborFestival.org or www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SeafoodFestival.

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