

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 15, 2021
To: Harbor Commission
From: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

National Safe Boating Week will run from May 22nd through Memorial Day weekend. This campaign is a great reminder to all boaters of the importance of safety and responsibility while operating all types of vessels. With summer upon us, it's a great time to refresh your skills so you can enjoy boating – safely – with friends and family.

Travel Responsibly - Every person on board should wear the mandatory, properly fitted, Coast Guard-approved life preserver (PFD). Every child under the age of 13 must wear a properly fitted Type I, II, or III PFD. Carry a marine radio, a GPS device, and of course the required distress signaling equipment. Operate your vessel at a safe speed and designate a lookout to watch for other boaters, swimmers, wildlife and objects floating in and on the water. Don't mix boating with alcohol; more than half of all marine fatalities are alcohol-related.

Respect the Rights of Others - With increased boating, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding in the summertime, it's everyone's responsibility to respect the rights of other recreationists in and around the harbor. Be courteous and patient with other boaters. Show consideration especially to those who may be new to boating.

File a Float Plan with a Relative or Friend - Let someone know where you're headed, and how long you'll be gone. If you don't communicate your safe return, they should contact the local boating authority or USCG. Communication devices can be the most important emergency equipment on board, especially in case of emergency. VHF radios, cell phones, satellite phones, emergency position indicating radio beacons, and personal locator beacons can all contribute to your safety.

Check the Weather - Know the latest marine weather forecast and monitor changing conditions.

Know your State's Boating Laws before Going out on the Water - Rules and laws can differ from state to state, and violations can result in citations, fines, or jail. Download a free copy of "The ABCs of California Boating Law". Be advised, if you are 40 years of age or younger, recreational power boat operators are mandated to carry a California Boater Card. For additional information on education requirements in California go to: www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com.

Educate Yourself - Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron <https://www.sbsps.net> and

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary <http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged> offer free vessel safety checks and boating-safety classes.

We hope that National Safe Boating Week will be on your minds throughout the year, and Harbor Patrol officers look forward to seeing you on the water having fun and staying safe!

HARBOR WATCH MEETING

Modeled after the Neighborhood Watch programs in your neighborhood, the Harbor Watch meetings are a citizen-based group who work together to spot and report crime and hazards to public safety. Over time, this program has morphed into a general exchange of information between harbor users and Harbor Patrol officers, followed by more practical hands-on education and training. With the added hands-on approach, past attendees have been trained in CPR/First Aid, fire extinguishers, demonstrations on the use of marina fire-box hoses, flare demonstrations, and the discharge of flares in a controlled setting.

Evening Harbor Watch meetings are generally held twice a year, in spring and fall, which are advertised on the marina gates.

Mark your calendars for a tentatively scheduled, COVID restrictions mindful, Harbor Watch meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 5:30 PM on the beach southwest of the Yacht Club parking lot. During this meeting, we will discuss crime statistics and finish with a flare demonstration and practical training.

HARBOR PATROL STAFFING UPDATE

The Waterfront Department is pleased to announce that Chris Shrake has accepted the offer as Harbor Patrol Officer Trainee. Chris is a Santa Barbara local and enjoys the traditional Santa Barbara activities like boating, surfing, and fishing. Chris comes to us with a diverse background in many industries which have always included providing outstanding public service. Please Welcome Chris to the Waterfront team.

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP DATE CHANGE

At the March 18, 2021 Harbor Commission meeting, the details and date of the Operation Clean Sweep event were discussed, however since then the date of the event has changed. In the interest of safety, Waterfront staff feel it is best to move the event to the following day on Sunday, May 16th, rather than the original Saturday May 15th date.