



# Press Release

February 13, 2007

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## **COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PASSES RESOLUTION URGING MANDATORY BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION**

### **All operators of powerboats and personal watercraft urged to take classes, regardless of age**

In their continuing effort to help save lives, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary recently passed a resolution urging state legislatures to require mandatory boating safety education, regardless of age.

The non-binding resolution, which was passed unanimously at the Auxiliary National Training Conference in St. Louis, supplements a resolution passed in 2003. That resolution suggested that boating safety education be required for anyone under the age of sixteen operating a power boat or personal watercraft.

The latest resolution cites continuing evidence that indicates approximately 80 percent of fatalities occur on boats whose operators have not received any form of boating safety education. Moreover, statistics indicate that the average age of someone involved in a boating fatality is around 38 years old, and thus, those states who require mandatory classes for younger boaters have seen little or no impact on their boating fatality statistics.

The majority of states who have some form of mandatory education tend to base the requirements on the operator's date of birth (i.e. anyone born after January 1, 1986 would be required to take a class). Anyone born before the statutory date is exempt from the mandatory class requirements. Furthermore, some states like California, still have no form of mandatory education requirement.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary urges *all* boaters, including sailors and paddle craft operators, to take a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

To find a boating safety class in your area, call 1-877-875-6296, or visit [http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe\\_visitor/index.html](http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor/index.html).

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*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed, non-military volunteer's who assist the Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement. These men and women can be found on the nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms and on the dock, performing Maritime*

*Domain Awareness patrols, safety patrols, vessel safety checks and public education.*

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary was founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and re-designated as the Auxiliary in 1941. Over 27,000 members donate millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions.*

For more information on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit us at [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) or [www.axupa.org](http://www.axupa.org) .