



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information Contact:
Anthony Turner, Chief
External Communications Division
National Department of Public Affairs
Email: anthony.turner@yahoo.com
(310) 908-6950

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY/OTHER AGENCIES RESPOND TO SIMULATED VESSEL EXPLOSION IN LONG BEACH HARBOR

LONG BEACH, Calif. This morning several local Long Beach agencies and organizations participated in a joint operation between the Aquarium of the Pacific (AOP), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach, Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, and the Long Beach Police and Fire Departments. The purpose of the operation was to test the readiness of the various agencies to respond to an incident near or around the Rainbow Harbor area of Long Beach and to communicate using the Incident Command System which is a nationally adopted system for managing incidents.

The incident scenario provided for a simulated explosion and fire aboard a pleasure yacht near the Queen Mary area of Long Beach Harbor. The scenario also called for 13 simulated victims whose injuries ranged from moderate to at least one fatality. All of the victims were recovered and evacuated on to Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessels, that were on simulated safety patrols, and then transported to waiting ground transportation to St. Mary Medical Center.

According to Coast Guard Auxiliarist Everett Harper "what made this exercise so valuable as a training tool was the degree of reality injected into the simulation, we (rescuers on the water) had no idea what to expect."

The Coast Guard Auxiliary routinely conducts safety patrols on coastal waters, rivers and lakes throughout the United States and its territories. All members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary are required to complete incident command system training.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard. Created by an Act of Congress in 1939, the Auxiliary directly supports the Coast Guard in all missions, except military and direct law enforcement actions. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an integral part of the United States Coast Guard. For more information visit www.cgaux.org if you are ready to join visit <http://join.cgaux.org/> .

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