

## WHY WE NEED YOU

After the events of September 11, 2001, the vision of security in the United States changed dramatically for all Americans and for the United States Government. The US Coast Guard is the military organization protecting our country's maritime community. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the lead volunteer service in the Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for teaching the recreational boating community how they can help to protect America by participating in Waterway Watch.

Every recreational boater, marina operator, bridge tender, longshoreman, commercial fisherman and waterfront concessionaire is part of the boating community. Those with boating interests regard waterways as their communities and recognize the need to protect them just like they watch their own homes and neighborhoods. Boaters and those who live around boats are the first to know that someone doesn't belong on the dock or that some activity on the water is outside normal routines. The Coast Guard and law enforcement personnel cannot possibly see everything going on in marinas, on bridges, around locks and other waterfront facilities...but the citizens of this country who are part of the boating community can! We can be additional "eyes and ears" for those protecting our nation.

**Show your community that you, as a concerned boater, are keeping watch on your local waterways. Display your WATERWAY WATCH decal on your boat or waterside facility and be ready to call the WATERWAY WATCH National Response Center at 1-877-24 WATCH. It's easy! You just need eyes and ears!**

While underway be observant for suspicious boating activity near bridges, oil, fuel and chemical storage or processing facilities, pipelines,

power generating facilities, shipping, cargo and fuel loading docks, airports or military installations abutting the water, water treatment plants or intakes and locks or dams.

Everyone who lives, works or has fun on and in our inland and coastal waterways needs to participate in Waterway Watch. There's nothing to join, no dues to pay, no meetings to attend. All that any American has to do is learn to keep their eyes and ears open and peeled for some of the things we list below...those activities and/or behaviors that may indicate the presence of a "bad guy" and more. Examine this list carefully, learn what to look for. In an emergency you call **911** or contact the Coast Guard on marine **Channel 16**. If you need to report an incident, call

**1-877-24-WATCH**

### HERE'S WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Anyone who appears to be simply loitering near a boat or waterfront facility without any apparent reason for being there.
- Anyone trying to access a boat or waterfront facility using force.
- Any suspicious person trying to rent a boat
- Any suspicious person seeming to be checking out or "casing" a boat
- Any suspicious person photographing or sketching waterfront installations
- Anyone who misuses boating lingo or seems too eager to use all the lingo
- Any boats tied to or loitering near dams, bridges or locks.

- Boaters who appear to be under the control of someone else
- People in the boating environment who work to avoid contact with their waterfront neighbors
- Any persons or boats that appear to be just loitering, with no specific reason for being in the area where they are observed
- Any unusual videotaping of boats or marine environment
- Anyone pouring liquids into a reservoir or waterway feeding a reservoir
- Dropping unusual objects into the water near hydroelectric or nuclear power plants, dams or locks.
- Boats with unusual or obviously inappropriate modifications
- Dangerous cargo or loads that appear to be explosives, chemical containers or weapons on or being loaded onto a boat
- Anything that strikes you as wrong—fishing or hunting in areas not typical, unusual boat characteristics, unusual SCUBA diving operations, lights flashing between boats or boat and shore at night, frequent trips between borders. Listen to your gut instincts and then call 1-877-24-WATCH
- Pay special attention to height, weight, clothing and other identifiable characteristics as well as vessel description

US Coast Guard Forces want you helping them in protecting America's maritime domain. We must never allow Americans anywhere to ever feel that they can never be victims of terrorism...we learned that lesson the hard way in 2001.

If you see something suspicious here are some general guidelines:

- Do not intervene...there is no reason for the recreational boater to be exposed to any undue risk.
- Take notes that record the time and date of the incident; how many people were involved; descriptions of the person/people involved (hair color, stature, skin color, clothing type and colors, shoe type and color); if a vehicle is used, take note of make, whether it's a sedan, coupe, wagon, truck, etc.; and, if it's a boat take note of approximate size, type, color, registration number if visible, any name show, etc.
- If you can take photograph or videotape what you see without exposing yourself to risk, try to do so.

The best protection against terrorism or crime is vigilance. Law enforcement personnel will tell you that the best protection against crime is alert neighbors...those who are most familiar with what is normal in their "neighborhood". On the water, the docks, marinas, boats, dams, locks, and waterside businesses are the "neighborhood". We want you to heighten your attention on the water—get to know your waterfront community well, the comings-and-goings of waterside businesses, fellow boaters on the docks nearby, watch for anything unusual happening around the waters, nearby power plants, military installations, naval security zones, bridges, locks and dams.

Being a part of Waterway Watch doesn't take extra time. All you have to do is go about your normal business in whatever capacity you are involved in the waterfront community and be prepared to call **1-877-24-WATCH** or **911** if you see any activity that doesn't seem right to you.

# WATERWAY WATCH

# 1-877-24-WATCH

# YOU ARE



# WATERWAY WATCH

