



Small Boat Program Safety Alert - Lookout And Roving Watch Requirements

This safety alert clarifies and expands upon requirements provided in the Small Boat Safety Board (SBSB) Safety Notice dated 19SEP19, Lithium Battery Safety Notice dated 28APR20, and Section 7 of the Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual (SBSPM) Version 4.1. These requirements will be incorporated into the forthcoming updated version of the SBSPM.

Following the disaster on the dive vessel *Conception* on 02SEP19 and the subsequent investigation and recommendations by the NTSB, USCG, and evaluation by the SBSB, additional clarification and requirements are needed to the SBSPM Version 4.1 to ensure the safety of all personnel embarked on NOAA small boats.

- All NOAA small boats must maintain a lookout while underway or anchored.
- All NOAA small boats must maintain a roving watch while underway or at anchor. The roving watch must monitor in the vicinity of berthing areas for early detection of fire, flooding, and other relevant safety concerns. Each vessel's SBOM must include vessel-specific roving watch requirements and method of documentation.
- A single person may fulfill the anchor lookout and roving watch duties provided a risk assessment that evaluates local traffic, probability of dragging anchor, and other pertinent factors has been completed and approved by the OIC and VOC.
- All NOAA small boats with overnight accommodations must have carbon monoxide and smoke alarms in berthing and common spaces. Within 3 years of the date of issuance of this notice, alarms must be audible in all occupied spaces. Use of repeaters or integrated alarms may be necessary. Specifications for these systems will be detailed in the forthcoming Small Boat Program Inspection Bulletin 02-21.
- A risk assessment evaluating escape routes must be completed. Orientation training is required for persons embarking on overnight operations. The orientation training must detail the hazards of fire, primary and secondary egress routes, and emergency responses. Drills utilizing secondary egress routes are recommended.

Section 3.07 (Night and Overnight Operations) of each vessel's Small Boat Operators Manual (SBOM) must be updated to reflect these requirements.

Operations must adhere to requirements of Section 7 of the SBSPM, particularly .02.d and .05, defining crew composition and rest.

Line Office Small Boat Officers (LOSBOs) and the SBP Office are always available to anyone needing further clarification of the above requirements.

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